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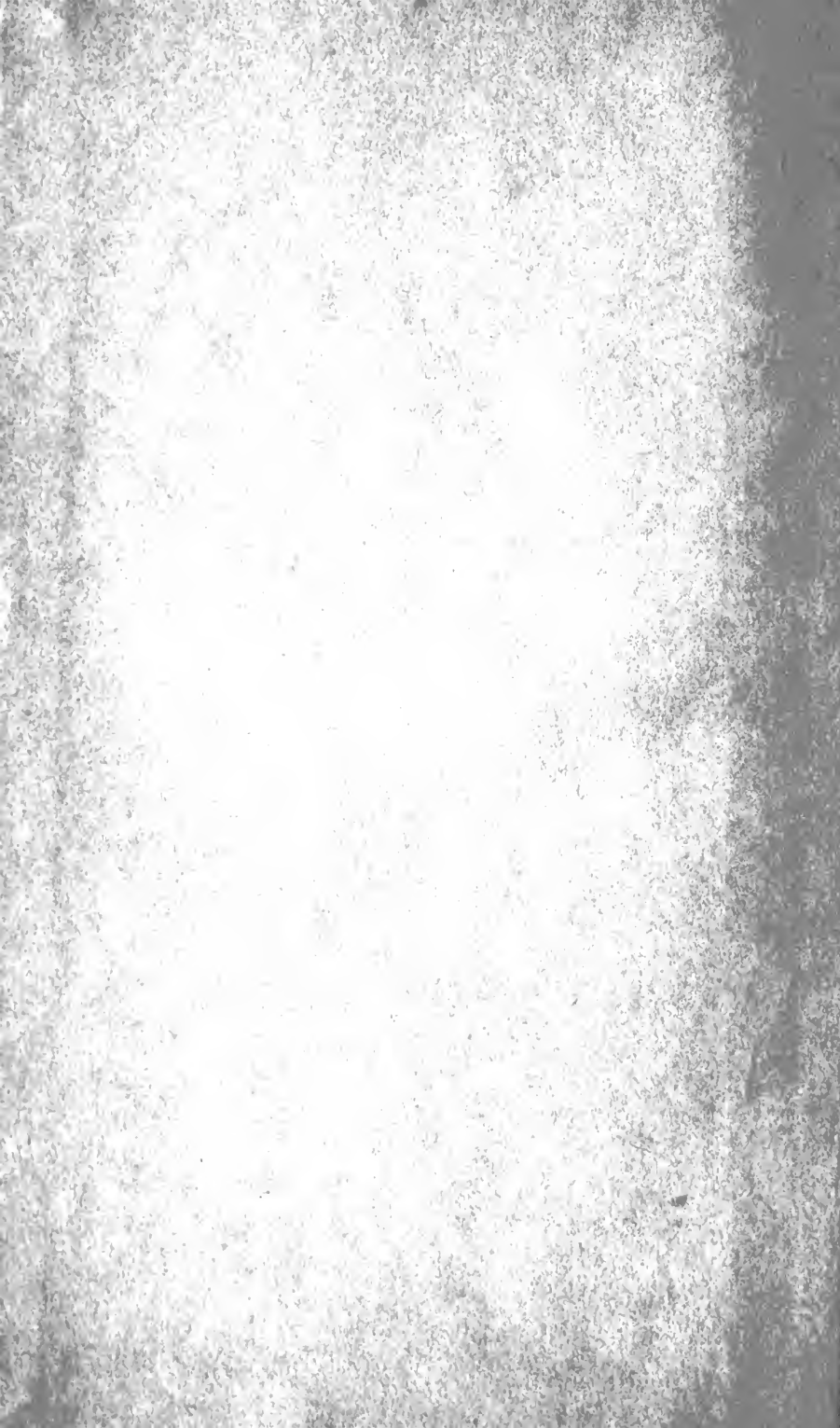






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D. A. W. PERKINS.



# HISTORY

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— OF —

# Osceola County,

IOWA.

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FROM ITS ORGANIZATION TO THE  
PRESENT TIME.



BY D. A. W. PERKINS.

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## PREFACE.

The writer of these pages located in O'Brien County, Iowa, in the fall of 1871, and hence knows something of the hardships and privations of the early settlers of these north-western Counties of the State, and particularly of the County of Osceola. This book is intended to rescue from coming oblivion many of the incidents and reminiscences of the early days of the County, and to give them record for the entertainment and benefit of the old settlers and the new, and also to give a general history of the County from its first organization.

The book is not produced as a money making scheme; is not written to advertise anybody or anything. The writer has simply taken a certain portion of his time from a busy professional life, and wielded the pen in gratifying a personal desire to preserve the County's history, and also to bring home to the intelligent people of Osceola, and all others interested in the County, a record of what has gone before, up to the present date, and from which point some future historian may continue the task, when we, who were active participants in its early struggles, will be numbered among those who are of the silent city of the dead.







## THE NAME.

Osceola County was named after a Seminole chief who was the acknowledged head of that band of Indians inhabiting the everglades of Florida. In 1835, the United States authorities attempted to remove the tribe into the country west of the Mississippi, but Osceola at the head of his brave followers refused to go, and such renowned commanders as Scott and Taylor were out-generaled in every encounter. After two years he was captured by treachery, sent to Charleston in irons, and afterwards at Ft. Moultrie died of grief.

## LAW PERTAINING TO ITS ORGANIZATION.

Chapter 9 of the Laws of the Third General Assembly, approved January 15, 1851, entitled, "An Act to Establish New Counties and Define Their Boundaries," among other things, provides as follows:

"Section 49. That the following shall be the boundaries of a new county, which shall be called Osceola, to-wit: Beginning at the northwest corner of Township Ninety-seven, Range Thirty-eight, thence north to the north boundary line of the State, thence west to the northwest corner of Township One Hundred, Range Forty-two, thence south to the southwest corner of Township Ninety-eight, Range Forty-two, thence east to the place of beginning."

Section 27 of the same act created a new county called Wahkaw, which is the present County of Woodbury.

Chapter 8 of the Laws of the Fourth General Assembly, approved January 12, 1853, entitled, "An Act Organizing Certain Counties Therein Named," provides for the organization of the County of Wahkaw, and the holding of a special election for that purpose.

And Section 14 of said chapter reads as follows:

"Section 14. That for revenue, election and judicial purposes, the Counties of Ida, Sac, Buena Vista, Cherokee, Plymouth, Sioux, O'Brien, Clay, Dickenson, Osceola and Buncombe are hereby attached to Wahkaw, and the election for said county shall be held at Sergeant's Bluff, and as many



other places as the organizing sheriff may designate in his notice of election."

Thos. L. Griffey was the organizing sheriff of the County of Wabkaw.

Chapter 12 of the Laws of the Fourth General Assembly, approved January 12, 1853, entitled, "An Act in Relation to New Counties," provides the manner in which citizens of an unorganized county may secure the organization of their county by application to the county judge of the county to which such unorganized county is attached, and also provides for establishing the county seat, notice of election, canvass of returns and qualification of officers elected.

And Section 4 of said chapter provides that the name of the County of Wabkaw shall be changed to Woodbury.

Sections 226 to 230, inclusive, of the revision of 1860 contain general provisions relating to unorganized counties, the holding of elections for organization, etc., in which the authority is stated to be in the county judge to perform certain duties, but Sections 312 to 326, inclusive, in effect confer upon the board of supervisors the powers and duties of the county judge in relation to unorganized counties attached to organized counties. And Section 330 of the revision of 1860 also so declares.

Under these provisions the County of Osceola remained attached to Woodbury County until its organization in January, 1872.



## ORGANIZING OSCEOLA COUNTY.

### WOODBURY COUNTY RECORDS.

STATE OF IOWA, }  
Woodbury County. }

I, George W. Wakefield, Auditor of Woodbury County, Iowa, do hereby certify that at the June session, A. D. 1871, of the Board of Supervisors of Woodbury County, to-wit: On the 6th day of June, A. D. 1871, the following proceedings were had to-wit:

*Resolved*, that the County of Osceola in the State of Iowa, be organized at the general election of 1871.

*Resolved*, that three townships be formed out of the County of Osceola in the State of Iowa, to-wit: All of Township No. Ninety-Eight, of Range Thirty-nine, Forty, Forty-One and Forty-Two, shall compose one township to be known and called Goewey Township. All of Township No. Ninety-Nine, Range Thirty-Nine, Forty, Forty-One and Forty-Two, shall compose one township to be known and called Holman Township. And all of Township No. One Hundred, of Range Thirty-Nine, Forty, Forty-One and Forty-Two, shall compose one township to be known and called Horton Township.

*Resolved*, that an election be held for the election of Township and County officers at the general election for 1871, to be held as follows, to-wit: In Goewey Township, at the house of E. Huff; in Holman Township, at the house of A. Culver; in Horton Township, at the house of H. R. Fenton.

*Resolved*, that the question of whether the Provisions of Chapter 144 of the Laws of the Twelfth General Assembly of the State of Iowa, shall be enforced in Osceola County, Iowa, shall be submitted to the legal voters of said County, at the general election of 1871, as provided in said chapter.

*Resolved*, that the proper officers are hereby authorized and instructed to do and take all necessary steps to have these resolutions carried into effect.

*Resolved*, that the Auditor be instructed to assess the lands in Osceola County at two dollars an acre.



I also certify that at the September Session, A. D. 1871, to-wit: On the 4th day of September, A. D. 1871, the following proceedings were had, to-wit:

*Resolved*, that the following taxes shall be and are hereby levied for the year A. D. 1871, upon the assessed value of the taxable property in Osceola County, Iowa, for the year A. D. 1871, in accordance with law, to-wit:

For State revenue, two mills on the dollar.

For ordinary County revenue, four mills on the dollar and a poll tax of fifty cents.

For the support of schools, two mills on the dollar.

For making and repairing bridges, three mills on the dollar.

For road purposes, five mills on the dollar.

For school house fund, ten mills on the dollar.

For teachers fund, ten mills on the dollar.

For contingent fund, four mills on the dollar.

I also certify that at the October session, A. D. 1871, to-wit: On the 16th day of October, A. D. 1871, the following proceedings were had to-wit:

On motion the Board proceeded officially to canvass the votes cast at the general October election, A. D. 1871, in and for Osceola County, Iowa, which was reduced to writing and placed on file, and the abstract of votes cast was recorded in the election book, and signed by the said Board and attested by the County Auditor, and it appearing by proofs on file that due proclamation has been made of the several offices to be filled, and to the question submitted to the vote of the County.

It was on motion ordered and declared that the following persons were duly elected to the offices set opposite their respective names, to-wit:

A. M. Culver, County Treasurer.

D. L. McCausland, County Recorder.

C. M. Brooks, Clerk of the District Court.

Delily Stiles, County Superintendent of Public Schools.

J. D. Hall, Coroner.

John Beaumont, Drainage Commissioner.

M. J. Campbell, County Surveyor.

George Spaulding,	} Commissioners.
H. R. Fenton.	
J. H. Winspear.	

Also the following question submitted to a vote of the people of the County was declared to have been carried in the affirmative:



“Shall the provisions of Chapter 144 of the Laws of the Twelfth General Assembly of the State of Iowa, be enforced in Osceola County, Iowa.”

The supervisors elect, in and for Osceola County, Iowa, were classed and divided by lot as by law provided, whereby it was found that George Spaulding was entitled to hold the office of member of the Board of Supervisors of said County for the term of three years, and H. R. Fenton was entitled to hold said office for the term of two years, and J. H. Winspear was entitled to hold said office for the term of one year.

On motion it is now ordered that the auditor be instructed to notify Wm. A. McDonald and F. M. Robinson to appear at his office and determine by lot which of them shall be declared elected Auditor of Osceola County, Iowa, also to notify S. C. Couch and T. J. Cutshall to appear at his office and determine by lot which of them shall be declared elected Sheriff of Osceola County, Iowa, also to give notice of the adoption of the several questions submitted to the people as by law provided.

I also certify that the following proceedings were held before the County Auditor of Woodbury County, Iowa, to-wit:

F. M. ROBINSON,            }  
WM. A. McDONALD,        }*Ex Parte.*

Now on this 27th day of October, 1871, comes Frank M. Robinson for himself and John Cleghorn, Jr., for Wm. A. McDonald, and lots having been duly prepared and drawn, it was ascertained that Frank M. Robinson should be declared elected Auditor of Osceola County, Iowa, and pursuant to the order of the Board of Supervisors, made October 16, 1871, the said Frank M. Robinson is hereby declared elected Auditor of Osceola County, Iowa.

I also certify that at the adjourned October session, 1871, to-wit: On the 29th day of October, A. D. 1871, the following proceedings were had, to-wit:

On motion it is now ordered the Auditor be empowered and instructed to approve the bond of the Auditor of Osceola County, Iowa.

I also certify that the following proceedings were had before the County Auditor of Woodbury County, Iowa, on the 19th day of December, A. D. 1871:



F. M. ROBINSON, AUDITOR, }  
OSCEOLA COUNTY, IOWA. } OFFICIAL BOND.

The official bond of F. M. Robinson, Auditor of Osceola County, Iowa, in the sum of Five Thousand Dollars with J. H. Winspear, H. R. Fenton and D. D. Doe as sureties is this day filed with the Auditor, and by him approved.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Board of Supervisors of Woodbury County, this 22nd day of March, A. D. 1872.

GEO. W. WAKEFIELD,  
[SEAL.] Auditor of Woodbury County, Iowa.



## CHAPTER I.

History is always interesting, and there is something peculiarly fascinating in the record of past events. We look forward with feelings of hope, of admiration and of ambition, but we look backward over the seemingly forgotten past in the spirit of meditation, and with our hearts concentrated upon the scenes and incidents of other days, and we ponder them with absorbing interest. The statements of history are sometimes doubted, and controversies arise which can end only in controversy, never settled, because the actors then in the drama of life are mouldering in forgotten and neglected graves. And even when the actors are still living, there often arises a dispute which history cannot fully settle, as demonstrated by the conflicting reports and statements of many a battle by participants themselves in our civil war. Our history is one of comparative recent events, whose pages turn back only two decades, and which our earliest settlers are familiar with, and which will be of much interest to the people of Northwest Iowa generally, and indeed to the people of all parts of the State. The intention of the writer in the history of Osceola County is not only to make record of such facts as pertain to its organization, its growth and progress, but also to weave in reminiscences and events connected with the early settlers, and make mention of every circumstance that will be of interest to the general reader.

In the spring and summer of 1870, the fair and fertile prairie land of Osceola County was without a settler. The older parts of Iowa, with that instinctive feeling that an old settled country has for a new, regarded Northwest Iowa then as a barren and bleak part of the state, and as unfit for man's habitation; but before the close of that year Mr. E. Huff came and filed on a claim November 3, which was the southwest quarter of Section 32, Township 98, Range 42, in what is now Gilman Township, so that this gentleman, now a non-resident, was the first settler.

After Mr. Huff had made settlement as the law required, he returned to Beloit, in Lyon County, and remained there during the following winter. In the spring of 1871, while at



Sioux City, he came across C. M. Brooks, who was pushing west under the advice of the lamented and distinguished Horace, but who had started for Nebraska. Mr. Huff explained to him the wonders of Osceola, and the graphic description he gave of this Garden of Eden resulted in Mr. Brooks coming to Osceola County. Mr. Brooks left behind him others, who were to follow when word was received where to go, and when he reached this County and looked upon its fair and fertile prairie land, he determined at once upon settlement here, and wrote to his friends to lose no time in hastening to this new and wonderful country.

This correspondence brought W. W. Webb, D. L. McCausland and M. J. Campbell, who, with C. M. Brooks, took Section 8, in Township 99, Range 41, now West Holman, each taking of it a quarter-section. Mr. McCausland and Mr. Webb came through with oxen, and Brooks and Campbell through to LeMars by rail. About this time, and we believe on the first day of May, 1871, H. G. Doolittle, with James Richardson, from Floyd County, arrived at the house of E. Huff and remained over night. The next day they struck for claims; Doolittle settled on the southwest quarter of Section 24, Township 99, Range 41, and Richardson on the same section. They built sod houses, and had some lumber with them. Mr. Richardson after being here a short time returned.

Houston A. Doolittle, a brother of H. G., came in June, 1871, and filed on Section 30, Township 99, Range 40. He left here in 1889, and now lives in Hancock County. H. G. Doolittle established a land business that year near Shaw's store, elsewhere referred to, and did business in a tent. He was engaged in locating incoming settlers, and did considerable business.

Returning again to Messrs. Webb and McCausland, they with the others, Brooks and Campbell, came from Fayette County. At the starting of Mr. Webb and McCausland with the oxen, Mr. McCausland was ill, indeed, low with consumption, but the idea of still going to a new country seemed to infuse new life in him, and his entire recovery afterwards was indeed miraculous.

When Webb and McCausland got to Osceola County and came to the Ocheydan, McCausland, still weak, undertook to jump across the narrow stream and landed nearly to his neck in the middle. This was severe for a consumptive man near to death's door, but after a change of clothing he was all right again. This was in April, 1871, and the weather disagree-





REV. JOHN WEBB.



able with rain and sleet. There is something wonderful in the mixture of ambition, of romance and love for a pioneer life, that will turn a seemingly disagreeable hardship into pleasure and enjoyment. The forces of nature seem to hold a man with peculiar devotion to a venturesome life in a new country; he can scale a cliff, cross troublesome streams, lay down content on the damp ground, and stand all kinds of weather as long as the El Dorado is ahead of him, and, indeed, after it is reached. Webb and McCausland that night remained at the bank of the Ocheyedon, and crawled supperless into their wagon and slept soundly until morning. When morning came they drove on west and soon spied a sodded shack, which they reached, and, building a fire, had a good square meal. The shack evidently had been put up by a trapper, as some deer meat was hanging inside, but was alive with living evidences of decay. After breakfast they pushed on to the residence of our first settler, Mr. E. Huff. Huff's house was one story, 12 by 16. No windows had been put in and no door, but a blanket hung over the place of entrance. They remained over night, and besides them, within this limited habitation to slumber through, were Amos Buchman, with wife and five children, Huff and his family, James Richardson and H. G. Doolittle, and how they packed themselves around none of them seem to remember. Buchman had been there about one week, and had drove through with his family from Buchanan County.

That sort of hotel accommodations might strike an eastern dude as somewhat inconvenient, but to those early settlers it was no doubt delightful and enjoyable in the highest degree. After a night at the "Huff" house, Webb and McCausland started back with Buchman to locate him where the trappers shack was, and, not knowing the exact spot or even the right direction, their going was somewhat devious, but they finally found it, and this claim Mr. Buchman at once settled upon and lived there until 1882, when he moved into Sibley. Mr. Buchman sold the claim this year (1892) and its description is the northeast quarter of Section 22, in Ocheyedon Township. If any new settler ever had a hard time to get along, it was Amos Buchman and family the summer and fall of 1871. They lived on anything they could get; ground corn in a coffee mill, caught hawks, badgers, skunks and any other animal they could get hold of. Some friend living in Dickinson County sent his team before winter set in and removed the Buchman family to Milford, where they remained until the



spring of 1872, when they returned again to their claim. Mr. Buchman now resides at Sibley, one of its most respected citizens, and is able now to enjoy the comforts of life.

In June, 1871, Elder John Webb, then living in Fayette County, came to Osceola, and along with the rest filed on a government claim, which was the southeast quarter Section 6, Township 99, Range 41. When the Elder first drove up to where his son, W. W. Webb, was, it was Sunday, and coming across D. L. McCausland with a gun on his shoulder, said to him, "Young man you are breaking the Sabbath." Mc-torted and inquired, "Why are you not preaching?"

In connection with the coming of these people from Fayette County, the writer wrote to Rev. John Webb, now living in Des Moines, for some contribution in regard to himself or his living here, which he thought might be of interest. Mr. Webb replied and contributed as follows:

"In June, 1872, in company with Mr. James Block, I left Fayette County, this state, to visit my son and others who left Fayette to locate in Osceola County on government claims. I was directed from Lakeville to go to Ocheyedon Mound, and was told that when on the mound I could in all probability see the tents in which McCausland, Brooks and W. W. Webb were living. I went to the mound and on top of it, but could not see any signs of life in any direction. Mr. Block and myself then went down to the banks of the Ocheyedon and camped for the night. The next morning we started in search of the boys, and about noon found them one mile east of where Sibley now is. We spent a few days with them, and our horses were picketed out by the fore leg. While the horses were thus secured, something gave them a fright, when they run the full length of the rope and brought up so suddenly both turned somersaults and one of them was killed. I liked the country, and that fall took charge of the Spirit Lake Circuit, and the next year took charge of Sibley Circuit, and formed the first class ever formed in Osceola County at the house of A. M. Culver. I cannot remember all the members of the class, but Mrs. Culver, Annie Webb, Robert Stamm and wife, Mrs. Rodgers, Mrs. McCausland and Mr. Morrison and wife were among them. I built the first Methodist Episcopal Church, or enclosed it, and Rev. Brasheers finished it.

"While I was living at Sibley at that early day there was a young lawyer came to town, not very scrupulous, and persuaded the board of supervisors to pay him \$20,000 and he would recover certain moneys due from Woodbury County to



Osceola. I heard of it and went to the court house where the board was in session, requested them to hear me and they consented. I told them they would regret the day that they issued the warrant, and gave the general reasons why such an official act should not be done, and even as an outsider I made a motion, to the board and to the crowd, that Blackmer be allowed \$500 retainer, and a per cent. afterwards, and I added to the motion that the hiring include all the lawyers, or the remainder will be coming in for a share. J. T. Barclay, Esq., who was standing close by me, moved an amendment that the preachers also be added, but they were not. This was the last ever heard of the suit against Woodbury County.

"I continued to live in Osceola County, and in 1876 my first wife was taken from me by death, and I was afterwards married again to Mrs. A. D. Bellord, a sister of Captain Chase. I saw the County and town grow from a small beginning to a county well settled and a thriving town. I went from Sibley to Vermillion, S. D., where I remained not quite a year; then went to Kansas, where I was three years, and from there to Des Moines. I then went to California and remained there a year, when I longed for Iowa again and returned to it, where I shall spend the remainder of my days, for, take it as a whole, Iowa is ahead of all the rest of the universe, and here let me abide and pass the remnant of this mortal career.

"On my return from Osceola that early time, and after I had got to Independence, the hotel keeper, Mr. Naylor, asked me what the Osceola County people used for fuel. I told him principally hay. I think I could have heard him laugh twenty miles away. 'Hay for fuel,' said the astonished listener, 'why the last armful would be consumed before they could get from the house to the stack and back again.' Notwithstanding, under the circumstances, hay was a pretty good fuel.

"When our Methodist Church at Sibley was ready for dedication, we met Sabbath morning, and, just before time to commence public worship, and while some of us were standing on the steps of the church, it was discovered that something was coming from the Northwest, which looked like a cloud, but still it could be seen that it was not a cloud, and upon its nearer approach we could then see that it was a swarm of grasshoppers. This so disconcerted and discouraged the people that it was impossible to hold them for the purposes of dedication that day, and it was deferred. The ravages of these pests which followed are known to old settlers."





D. L. McCAUSLAND.



## CHAPTER II.

The intention of the writer is to confine these events to the separate years as far as possible, and also to speak of townships separately, but after all they will be more or less blended. Having drifted into Ocheyedon Township by the location of Mr. Buchman, it is perhaps best to finish this township for the year 1871. Ocheyedon had no prospective railroad to cross it, which, perhaps, may be the reason that this township was not sooner settled, or its land filed upon as early as Holman. Buchman's place, meagre as it was, and not tempting to a traveler for hotel accommodations, was, nevertheless, a sort of headquarters between Western Osceola, Eastern Lyon and Milford and Spencer; and the boys had many a rollicking time at the Buchman habitation. About the first of May, 1871, Will Dunham and Fred Frick settled on Section 8 in Ocheyedon Township. Frick lived there about four years, and Dunham went to California in 1882. On Section 18, we think the southwest quarter, Ole Peterson settled.

This same summer of 1871 also came A. B. Elmore, L. G. Ireland and E. N. Moore; these came from Clayton County, also Elder Dean. Mr. Elmore first filed on a part of Section 34, in Horton Township, but afterwards settled on Section 2 in Ocheyedon, where he still resides and is highly respected. E. N. Moore settled on Section 4, in Ocheyedon, as did also Elder B. D. Dean. Mr. Moore still owns the same quarter-section, but resides now in the Town of Ocheyedon, is postmaster, and considered one of its best citizens. Elder Dean is now in Exeter, New Hampshire, and left Osceola County in 1878. L. G. Ireland, who was a very honorable and conscientious man, left in 1879 with his family and moved to Florida. They have since all died.

On the northwest quarter of Section 20 lived Fred Nagg. These comprise the settlements made in Ocheyedon in 1871. Nothing was raised that season by these settlers, and the summer was uneventful, except a severe hail storm which swept this part of the County and was unusually severe. Mr. Buchman lost a cow and a calf in this storm; they probably went with it, as cattle will; at any rate he never saw them afterward.



The winter of 1871 and 1872 was a disagreeable one, but most of the Ocheydan settlers wintered elsewhere. Those that remained on their claims were Dunham and Frick, Ole Peterson and Fred Nagg. The Nagg family had a hard time of it. They lived in a sodded house, small and cold, and kept a yoke of oxen in the same room, ground corn to live upon, and cut weeds and fed to the oxen to keep them alive. Their lot seemed to be a hard one, and indeed it was. Had they been there by order of some despotic ruler, as a convict goes to Siberia, it would have been unbearable, but thoughts of the coming spring time, and of the green grass and wild flowers of the beautiful prairie which would return in the summer before them, kindled the joyous feeling of promise and of hope, and gave them a heart of sunshine, even amid the snows of winter. But, alas, before the hoped for spring time had come to this poverty stricken family, that grim reaper Death, which stalks unbidden alike into the palaces of the rich and the hovels of the poor, sought out upon the bleak prairies of Ocheydan during that hard winter of 1871 and 1872 the head of the household Fred Nagg himself, and this terrible affliction just then laid a burden of sorrow upon the family which in addition to their abject condition of poverty seemed greater than they could bear. Nagg had started on foot for Roger's store during the latter part of that winter, the only store then where Sibley now is, obtained a few needed and indispensable articles, and left the store to return to his family, but he never reached them. He had a hand sled and was overtaken with a blizzard and sudden cold weather. He was not sufficiently clad even for weather less severe, and, becoming numbed and senseless by the cold and storm, lay down and died. This blizzard, on February 12, 1872, lasted three days, and at its commencement there were about sixteen men at Roger's store in from their claims. They all started home. Some reached there and others stopped with some settlers on the way. After the storm was over word had been received that Nagg had not reached home, and J. F. Glover, M. J. Campbell, C. M. Brooks, Al Halstead, F. F. and Eugene White started out and followed Nagg's sled trail. About seven miles out southeast from Sibley they found the sled and sack; wolves had clawed into the sack and eaten a part of the contents. The party were unable to find Nagg's body, but went to the house and consoled his wife as best they could, holding out a hope that he might still be alive. His body was found afterwards in the latter part of March, 1872, by W. H. Lean, and it was



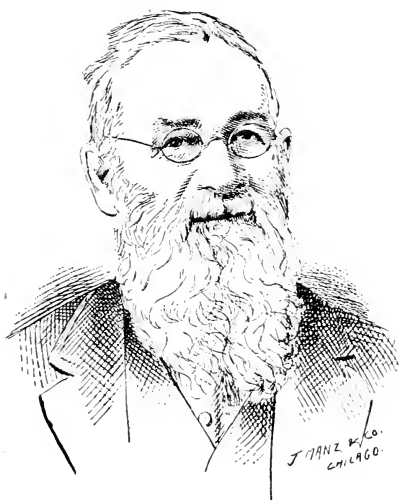
partially eaten by the wolves. Nagg was buried on his claim, and, there being no clergyman to conduct the usual funeral exercises, Frick read the burial service from an Episcopal prayer book. The few that remained in Ocheyedan Township during that winter of 1871 and 1872 had nothing to break the monotony of pioneer life, so far as mingling in society was concerned, but going to Sibley occasionally, and trapping some, was all the diversion within reach of these few settlers.

In the fall of 1871 Frick came near having serious trouble with an adventurous immigrant pushing out into the wild and wooly west. He had some cattle with him and one of them had strayed away at night, and when Frick got up one morning he saw not far off what he supposed was an elk feeding quietly on the prairie. Frick was a hunter, and the sight of this supposed elk thrilled every inch of his stature, and he moved about with the stealth of an Indian for fear that the slightest noise would frighten this valuable game and send it fleet-footed out of rifle reach. Frick got good and ready, pointed his rifle out of the shanty window, took a good rest and deliberate aim and fired. The object of his mark fell under the aim of the skillful hunter and he rushed out to the bleeding body of his victim, but instead of an elk Frick's surprised eyes and astonished senses gazed upon only a cow. It was meat, however, if not venison, and Frick hauled the carcass to his house and proceeded to do the usual carving into roasts and steaks, when a stranger appeared upon the scene, who was no other than the owner of the cow which had strayed away. Circumstantial evidence, as the lawyers call it, was strong against Frick, pointing to theft malicious and intended, and the moving immigrant was about to paralyze everything in reach of him. Frick explained, however, apologized, and scraped together what loose change he had and gave it to the owner of the cow, who went on his way again satisfied and contented.

A. M. Culver came to the County in the spring of 1871. He settled and filed on the southeast quarter of Section 24, Township 99, Range 42.

The previous year, in 1870, he had left the State of Wisconsin and gone to Mills County, in Iowa, and from Mills County he drove through to Osceola, bringing with him three horses, a wagon and buggy, also two cows. His family came with him, consisting of his wife, one son and a daughter. Mr. Culver and family did the best they could with the shelter of





GEORGE CAREW.



a wagon cover, while his son, Andrew, went to LeMars and got cottonwood lumber enough to build a house, which they soon did, 12 by 14 in size. Mr. Culver broke nine acres that year and put them into wheat and six acres into oats, and raised an average crop on the sod. When Mr. Culver came first without the family he landed at Huff's house, the first settler and heretofore described, and there being quite a number there that night, he was among the usual number laid out in rows on the floor. Huff and Brooks located Culver on his quarter-section. On the same section there was also located and settled that year Andrew Culver, Geo. W. Bean and R. O. Manson.

John F. Glover landed in Sibley in the latter part of August, 1871, and settled on the southwest quarter of Section 4, Township 99, Range 41. Mr. Glover's coming was by meeting Stiles and F. M. Robinson at Sioux City. Glover put up the usual settler's shack, and obtained his lumber from Windom, Minnesota, going for it with a yoke of oxen and wagon.

After these incoming settlers had established a home, the next thing was to find out who their neighbors were, and in this year of 1871 they were few and far between.

Some other things to think about, and among these something to eat. Glover made frequent trips hunting, but seemed to be unsuccessful. While in McCausland's neighborhood, Mc returned from a trip to Spirit Lake and reported that Rush Lake, near Ocheyedon, was alive with ducks, and Glover became so excited over the pictured description of vast lakes and ponds covered with game, that he organized a hunting party, consisting of himself, McCausland and Luther Webb, who started the next day with oxen and a wagon, with which conveyance the ducks and geese were to be carted home. They arrived safely at Rush Lake, and sure enough McCausland had not overdrawn the amount of game. They had no boat, and anyone who knows Rush Lake, knows the difficulty of getting game there without a float of some kind. Before the boys had hardly appeared at the edge of the water on one side, the entire army of ducks had moved to the other side, out of reach, and by running around from one side to the other, the boys became about exhausted. Finally Glover gathered pieces of the wagon, some brush, and a decent sized tree or two and formed a raft sufficient, as he believed, to float himself out on the lake, and on it started. When out about twenty feet the frail craft, like many an air castle, fell



to pieces, and its only passenger went reluctantly into the water. He soon got out, however, and this dampened all the ardor of hunting on his part, and the other two were tired and discouraged. Webb then started with his oxen to Milford and left McCausland and Glover to tramp twelve miles home, which they did. Just as they were starting McCausland brought down a brandt, and, this being the only game they got, with it they started home, and it was near night. They had brought with them some cooked beans in an iron pot, and a loaf of bread; when the brandt was secured it was decided that bread and beans were nowhere in comparison with a roasted fowl, so that, hungry as they were, their appetite was reserved until they could get home. At last they reached McCausland's house, and Mc sent Glover to Roger's store, three miles, for some necessary articles for the square meal, and to a settler's shack for something else. Glover returned with the articles and Mc had the brandt stuffed and in the oven roasting, but himself was laid out on the bed. The oily odor from the fowl on an empty stomach had sickened him, and Glover was left alone until J. M. Brooks happened to arrive, when he and Glover got the table set, the roast on, and the two of them sat down to a rich feast for homesteaders. But alas for the dreams of fancy, the visions of bliss and the tempting measures of delight, in which we too often indulge, that are at last turned into the bitterness of gall in the round up of indulgence. Glover and Brooks were soon laid out groaning in the agony of too much brandt, and the oily condition of the fowl made them too sick to hope ever to make final proof on a government claim, the taking of which had been the leading ambition of their lives. Their extreme sickness revived Mc and he ate the beans and the bread, and towards morning Glover and Brooks got around all right again, but like a victim of seasickness not a thing was left in them, and as Mc had ate all the grub in the house, the three of them started out for something to eat, and before they got through they had nearly eaten the whole neighborhood out of house and home, and that day there was a tramping to Roger's store for a fresh supply. This sickened Glover for a while on wild fowl; his hunting excursions after that were few and far between, but it seems that another ducking was still in store for him. He concluded that housekeeping was not well done without vegetables, and nothing seemed to be in sight but potatoes, and the nearest these could be had was thirteen miles, but Glover had been a soldier and could walk like a



professional. He started with a sack and went southeast until he came to the Ocheyedon, and when he got to that the water was well up and the difficulty of crossing was before him. There was a small skiff there owned by Ole Peterson, and soon Peterson himself appeared, and, after reciting his experiences as a sailor and his capabilities as a boatman, induced Glover to get aboard, and taking a wagon bow for a paddle started out with the frail craft to ferry the now Mayor of Sibley across the troublesome stream. Men are apt to make too little margin for what might happen, often miscalculate in more serious adventures than this, and often start out in the bouyancy of expectation, but fall into difficulty with sudden and unexpected precipitation. When in the middle of the stream, Peterson, who was standing up in the boat, fell on one side of it, and himself and Glover went suddenly into the water, and, having no further use for the boat in the interests of navigation, they struck out, Glover for one side of the river and Peterson for the other, and when landed they stood dripping with the waters of the Ocheyedon on opposite banks, gazing at each other, Peterson filling the air with profanity, and Glover wondering if Peterson hadn't overdrawn his experiences as a follower of the seas.





J. S. REYNOLDS.



### CHAPTER III.

The people then living in Osceola County in 1871, did not often get together, only as a neighborhood would gather for social purposes. There were not many in the county in 1871. The county was sparsely settled. It was

“The first low wash of waves, where soon  
Would roll a human sea.”

The first meeting of the people was held at Abraham Miller's place, near Sibley. It was called for the purpose of establishing mail facilities, and to provide for bringing the mail from Le Mars to Shaw's store, then near Ashton. This was the ostensible purpose, and mail arrangements were provided for, but back of it all there were a few political schemes, and several ambitious aspirants for office at the coming election who wanted to look the crowd over, get acquainted, and try to make the usual favorable impression in order to succeed in making a harvest of votes. If a yankee should be cast away on a desolate island, the first thing he would no doubt do, would be to divide the territory into election precincts, and the next thing to call a caucus. The people of Osceola then were strangers to each other, and while other things may have been left behind them at the old home, the great feeling of sovereignty, realization of the fact that each was an individual citizen and could vote and hold office, were a part of their nature, and in this respect they were alike without even a formal introduction. Abraham Miller was chairman of the meeting, and Cyrus M. Brooks, secretary.

The next meeting of the people was held on the 4th day of July, 1871. It will be noticed that the first organization of Osceola was brought about by act of Woodbury County Board of Supervisors. Osceola was then a part of Woodbury for judicial purposes, and, under the law, for all other also, so that Woodbury's act constituted a division of territory. In other words, Woodbury set Osceola up in business for itself. As provision had been made in the Woodbury County proceedings for the election of Osceola County officers at the general election in 1871, it became the duty of Osceola County people to fix upon somebody to fill each of the offices, and to prepare candidates for them who should be in the field for



election. The order for the election of officers was made in June, 1871, and as July 4th was approaching, it was thought best by the people of Osceola County to meet on that day, and celebrate with the usual exercises and at the same time nominate candidates for County offices.

The outside world was full of glory and enthusiasm, the air was filled with noise and pyrotechnics, and the voices of American orators were sounding the distinguished valor and heroism of our canonized ancestors. The little band of Osceola County settlers met together with a quaker quietness, comparatively speaking. They had their lunch baskets and were socially agreeable, but the cannon, the fire cracker and fire works were conspicuously absent. The meeting was held on A. M. Culver's claim on Section 24, Township 99, Range 41, and was called and intended, as before stated, not only to observe and recognize the great American holiday, but also to place in nomination candidates to fill the county offices at the first election to be held in October, 1871. At that time none knew each others qualifications, except where men had come from the same neighborhood in other parts of the country. The men to be nominated and elected were to have the trial of service, were to be weighed in the balance, and given the opportunity to prove their fitness, or to be found unworthy of the trust that was imposed in them. H. G. Doolittle was chosen chairman of the meeting and \_\_\_\_\_ secretary. A few patriotic remarks were made and the meeting proceeded to make its nominations. The following named persons were put in nomination:

Treasurer, E. Huff.

Recorder, D. L. McCausland.

Sheriff, Jeff Cutshall.

Superintendent of Schools, Delily Stiles.

Clerk of Courts, Cyrus M. Brooks.

Auditor, \_\_\_\_\_ McDonald.

Supervisors, { J. H. Winspear.  
H. R. Fenton.  
George Spaulding.

Holmon Township Trustees, { Robert Stamm.  
W. W. Webb.  
Frank Stiles.  
H. R. Hayes.

There was present at this meeting, including all, about one hundred. The business and visiting were ended the latter part of the afternoon and the people dispersed.



It might be well to follow these nominations to the election which followed in October. At this election there were no contentions of political parties. The contest involved no controversy, except individual success, and there was no regular opposition ticket. There were independent candidates, however, and the nominated ticket was not wholly successful. A. M. Culver was elected Treasurer as an independent candidate over E. Huff, the regular nominee. F. M. Robinson was an independent candidate for Auditor, and himself and the nominee, McDonald, were a tie on the election. This tie had to be decided by drawing lots, and the drawing resulted in favor of Robinson, so that Robinson became Auditor. John Beaumont was the independent candidate against McCausland, but McCausland was elected. When the time to qualify came, McCausland was away teaching school, and the board in January, 1872, felt inclined to declare the office vacant, and appointed John Beaumont, Recorder. Afterwards McCausland sent his bond, and upon his return, had some little trouble to get possession of the office, but finally obtained it. Cutshall and his independent opponent both tied, and when the drawing was to take place neither were present, so the board on January 3, 1872, appointed Frank Stiles.

There was at this time under the organization only three townships in the county, and this October election was held in Goewey Township at the house of E. Huff; in Holman Township at A. M. Culver's house, and in Horton Township at the house of H. R. Fenton.

The final outcome resulted in the following named persons filling the places:

Treasurer, A. M. Culver.

Recorder, D. L. McCausland.

Auditor, F. M. Robinson.

Clerk of Courts, Cyrus M. Brooks.

Surveyor, M. J. Campbell.

Coronor, J. D. Hall.

Superintendent of Schools, Delily Stiles.

Drainage Commissioner, John Beaumont.

Supervisors, { J. H. Winspear.  
George Spaulding.  
H. R. Fenton.

There were cast at this election in all at the three polling places, — votes.

The County was now fully organized, and the Board of Supervisors had their meeting January 1, 1872.





JOHN L. ROBINSON.



The proceedings of the board during the first year of its administration are told in another part of this book and we need not here recite them again. The record and the unwritten history of this first year, and a part of the second year, shows that a few unprincipled men came to Osceola County for the sole and only purpose of plunder. These few gathered some friends around them—really had a party—many of whom had no share in the spoils, but were made to believe that the leaders were only doing what the good of the County demanded, and that the opposition were indignant because they were out of office and not in.

There is a certain stubbornness in all our natures, which we often assert, sometimes in the wrong direction, just because some trivial thing has thrown us with this side or that, and occasionally conviction itself will be suppressed by a stand first taken and stubbornly kept. These two parties each had their friends, and were about equally divided, the reform party, however, being mostly in the country outside of the town. Once allied with one side or the other it seemed difficult to change, as it is now difficult to go from one political party to the other when we have once identified ourselves with that of our choice. Some of the people in 1872 and 1873 who joined themselves with the boodlers were not—we will be charitable enough to admit—boodlers with them. There were honorable exceptions, strange as it may seem. George Spaulding, who was one of the County Supervisors first elected, and served with Fenton and Winspear, lives in Osceola still, and is a man highly respected. He has held office in Goewey Township, the place of his residence, several different times, and is now on the School Board. Mr. Spaulding is looked upon as a man of integrity and a good citizen. He was made to believe that his co-members of the board, though inclined to extravagance, were working for the best interests of the County, and it is conceded that Mr. Spaulding acted conscientiously in his official acts, and though now he may see some things upon which he would vote differently, he felt at the time that his action was right. He would now be voted for with the full confidence of his fellow citizens.



## CHAPTER IV.

John H. Douglass came to Osceola County in October, 1871, driving through by wagon from Wisconsin. He had with him his wife and daughter, now Mrs. Henry Newell, and son. Mr. Douglass filed on the southwest quarter of Section 14, Township 110, Range 42, and made the usual settlement and improvements required of a settler, and in November of that year went to Alamakee County, Iowa, for the winter. In the spring of 1872, Mr. Douglass and family returned to their claim, and got here towards the latter part of March. He started before the frost was out of the ground and while the roads might be fit for travel, but when he reached Osceola County, it was breaking up, and the spring weather had thawed the snow away and the rivers and creeks were running with water. Mr. Douglass came to the Ocheyedan, that treacherous stream with which every incoming settler seems to have had an adventure, and the prospect of getting over was unfavorable, for the appearance of the stream to cross it was neither promising nor inviting. Douglass arrived at the bank of the Ocheyedan at the Buchman place on the evening of March 7, 1872. The river was narrow at this point but was yet filled with snow, but soft and watery on the surface. He first assisted his family across, and after this was done together with the transportation of a few articles, he was making arrangements to get the horses and wagon over, when the water began to pour down the river over the snow, which startled Douglass with surprise, and confronted him with a difficulty entirely unexpected. He unhitched the horses, tied them to the wagon and then started across, wading in the water on the snow, treading lightly, knowing the danger of being completely submerged. But it seems that he was not to escape so easily, for when about midway down, in he went, and when the bottom was reached his head was just above water. There happened to be at the Buchman shack H. G. Doolittle and his brother. These, with the Douglass family, rescued the venturesome settler and brought him out on the bank, but in a deplorable condition of wet and cold. The next morning the river was still worse, but the Douglass effects were divided and something had to be done. The horses and



the wagon with the household goods, including a barrel of pork and two pigs in a box strapped on behind, were on the other side, and they must be brought over, let the sacrifice be what it may. Douglass, with a board or two, a rope and such other devices as the ingenuity of man will bring into requisition under such circumstances, was enabled to get over to his effects, and, finding them all right, the troublesome question again arose as to how to get them over. Douglass on one side and his friends and family on the other, discussed the difficulty in all its bearings, and the task seemed to be hopeless, and the question without any probability of solution. Finally Douglass was seized with an idea. He had tied to the wagon a red cedar bedstead, which had come down as an heirloom in his wife's family from the old Knickerbocker days in New York State, and which had been prized from generation to generation. It was of the old-fashioned kind, about enough material in it to have absorbed a lumber yard, and with posts of enormous length and size. Douglass got this out, and by a system of mechanical contrivance formed a raft that seemed capable of greater navigation than that for which it was intended. Mrs. Douglass protested, but had to look on while this sacred relic from her ancestors was fast being transformed from its original construction, into nothing but a float for the purpose of ferrying. John succeeded, however, with the help of the others, in taking over the barrel of pork and the other household goods, until all was over except the horses and wagon. He tied a rope to one horse and this to the other and they were led single file, and by swimming and clambering they were soon on the other bank. Then came the wagon. With this, they tied a rope in the end of the tongue and hitching the rope to the horses started with the wagon across. When the hind end of the wagon went down the bank, the box with the pigs in struck the bank and broke off, letting the pigs loose, and they went squealing away, glad to escape. The tongue stuck into the opposite bank, but this was soon pulled loose and the wagon drawn out. The pigs, with the aid of the family dog, were soon caught and got over, and Douglass heaved a sigh of relief. It took all day, however, to do the crossing, and the next day he started on northwest to his claim, and came near having the same experiences in crossing the Otter that he had at the Ocheyedon, but he finally landed at his shack and soon was set up in the usual style of homesteader housekeeping.

William Anderson came with Douglass in 1871. He also





S. A. DOVE.



settled on a claim and lived here, we think, until 1877, when he returned to Wisconsin, and now lives at Sparta.

The spring of 1872 was a troublesome one in Osceola County for traveling. Then the streams had no bridges, and the treacherous snow underlying the surface water was not inviting to venture in. After a limited thaw in the fore part of March there was part of a brief winter again, and it seemed to the people then that an actual spring was never coming.

Quite a number of the early settlers came from Grant County, Wisconsin, so that even if they didn't know each other there, when acquaintance was made between these Wisconsin people it established a mutual feeling of interest in each other, for there is always an attachment arises between people of the same nativity, where the same sights and scenes were familiar to them all.

D. D. McCallum also came from Grant County, Wisconsin. He started from there the fore part of May and drove to Clayton County, and soon after on to Osceola County, where he arrived about the middle of June, and on the 25th day of June, 1872, filed on northwest quarter of Section 14, Township 99, Range 40, what is now West Ocheyedan. McCallum drove in with three horses and a linch-pin wagon; had with him his wife and one child (now Mary McCallum); had a few household goods, pork enough to last several years and \$105 in money. He first struck the Ocheyedan River at what was called the Lone Tree ford, drove northwest until he came to Mandeville Homestead, on Section 26, Township 99, Range 41, and there he camped for the night. The next day he went to Buchman's, riding one horse and leading another. Buchman mounted the other horse and the two men rode over the country looking for a claim upon which McCallum could settle. He finally selected the one before described, went to Sibley the next day, borrowed a saddle from Ward—leaving his revolver as security—and started for Sioux City, where he arrived safely and did his filing. McCallum's first habitation after settlement was his wagon cover, and once installed in this he went to work breaking, and planted some potatoes. He soon after put up a sod house, lived on the claim until 1878, when he moved into Sibley. McCallum, like a great many others in those early days, had a hard time of it. Soon his money was gone, no income was in sight, and only those of the McCallum pluck were able to see it through. His house, lumber and furniture, and all its belongings, cost about \$20; so that in those days of settle-





A. D. MORELAND.



ment our ex-Judge was not in shape to entertain any of the kid glove or swallow-tail-coat members of fashionable society.

In the winter of 1872 and 1873 McCallum was in Sioux City chopping wood, and remained there until the memorable blizzard in the spring of 1873, when, feeling alarmed about his family, he returned home. Soon after this in the summer season Elder Dean while burning the prairie grass around his property, carelessly let the fire get away from him, and it swept, as a prairie fire will when turned loose, all over the country. This fire swept away all McCallum's hay and all other loose property, except the house.

The Elder, in spite of all his religious graces, his Godly ways and good intentions, was very much blamed for his carelessness, and had he been a layman it is hard to tell what might have occurred as a penalty. As it was, McCallum had the Elder arrested, brought before a Justice, who found the accused guilty and fined him \$5 and costs, which he paid. The Board of Supervisors had offered a reward of \$50 for the apprehension and conviction of a party who was the cause of a prairie fire. McCallum in this case was entitled to it and got it. This affair did not cause any hard feelings between the Elder and McCallum; indeed, the Elder had not the slightest animosity, for he was a man of broad views, kind and charitable, as well as a sincere Christian. McCallum rode home with the Elder and staid all night at the Elder's house, and out of the \$50 McCallum magnanimously reimbursed him for all the outlay and trouble he had been put to, though brought about by his own carelessness. In other words, McCallum whacked up with the Elder.

Prairie fires then in this sparsely settled country were very much to be feared. Whenever they occurred but few were prepared for them. They were not set maliciously, nor with any intention to do harm, but were always the result of carelessness or inability to hold them against sudden puffs of wind unexpected, when the burning around was done with a still atmosphere.





WILL THOMAS.



## CHAPTER V.

Most people who settled in Osceola County in 1871, did not, in starting out, make directly for the county, but started for government land in Northwest Iowa. In the spring of 1871, Frank R. Coe left Clayton County, Iowa, as sort of an advance guard for several of his neighbors who had the western fever. He arrived in Osceola County and filed that same spring on the northwest quarter of Section 22, Township 99, Range 41, now East Holman, and then returned to his friends, for whom also he had picked out claims. Among these was J. S. Reynolds, present County Auditor. Coe and Reynolds came up in September, 1871, and Reynolds filed on the northeast quarter of Section 22, the same section with Coe. They made the usual improvements required for a government settler, and returned again to Clayton County, where they wintered. In the spring of 1872, they returned to their claims. Reynolds drove through with two yoke of oxen, and had with him his son Samuel, then about twelve years old. Coe had a span of horses and a wagon heavily loaded with the requirements of a settler. They got to Milford between the first and the middle of March, and after they had reached Milford there was a heavy fall of snow, and to push through this and run the risk of blizzards was a task they hesitated to undertake. The last shack for them to pass after leaving Milford was about ten miles out, and they would pass no other between that and the Ocheyedan. They started from Milford, Reynolds going ahead with his oxen to break the road, and Coe following behind. After they had passed the last shack about a mile, its occupant came after them and insisted upon their return, as it would be dangerous with threatening weather to go on. They did return and remained with this settler several days. They started out again when a change in the weather came on, and again they returned and tarried several days more, when they started again. This time they reached the Buchman dug-out, but everything seemed to be covered with snow. This was about March 18th, and they reached this stopping place in the evening. They went to work and about two hours had the snow cleared





A. E. SMITH,



away from the stable so they could get their teams in, which they did, and also themselves stayed there all night. In the morning they shoveled the snow from the dug-out so they could get into that, and there they remained about two weeks with bad weather and occasional blizzards. They had heard of the death of Fred Nagg, lost in a blizzard, and knew the danger of being caught in one of them on the open prairie, and they were wise in their apprehensions. At the end of about two weeks the weather and travel became such that they pushed on and soon after got to their claims. When once there they commenced improvements. Their stable was made out of a few boards they borrowed from some other settler, and with these and the wagon covers they constructed a shelter for the stock and built it across the line between the claims so that both owned the stable jointly. They then drove to Worthington and bought lumber for shacks, and bought it of Levi Shell, who was then in the lumber business at that point. Reynolds put up the usual 8x8 shack, and Coe one that was 8x12. Coe's family soon followed, but Reynold's family did not come until in September following. This left Reynolds to wrestle with the pots and kettles, and no doubt his batching was like all the rest, with the washing of dishes repeatedly deferred, and most meals consisting of a chunk of bread and a slice of fresh pork, and perhaps an occasional luxury of black molasses. His family met with a misfortune after his leaving by the burning of the house in which they lived with all its contents. They arrived safely in September in Osceola County, and the family was again united and are still here with the grown up children having families of their own. Coe left here several years ago.

In the summer of 1871, Will Thomas, present Clerk of Court, left Wisconsin with a covered wagon, containing himself and three sisters. There was also with him in another covered wagon James G. Miller and his wife, who was also a sister to Mr. Thomas. They started for Nebraska, but came across some parties bound for Northwestern Iowa, upon which Thomas and Miller also concluded to go in the same direction, which they did, and landed in Osceola County in June of that year. They were about one month on the road, and finally located on Section 22, in what is now Wilson Township. Thomas took the northeast quarter, Miller the northwest, and the girls claims adjoining. When about a mile from the section where the claims were taken they camped for the night, using the wagon with its covering for a sleeping place





F. W. HAHN.



and a shelter. During the night a storm came up which was very severe, and the wind, hail and rain with frequent flashes of lightning were terrible. Will Thomas and his companions got out of the wagon, and soon a gust of wind tipped the wagon over, the horses got loose and run away, but returned after being gone about three hours. W. M. Bull was camping near by, with his wagon cover for a tent, and the bows stuck into the ground. W. P. Underwood also was near with his wagon box and its cover set off on the ground. There was considerable stirring around among these campers, for the night was fearful and frightening. The Miss Thomas' sought shelter in the Underwood camp, and they all managed to worry through until morning. Of the three young ladies who experienced this midnight adventure, one of them is now the wife of Dr. Lawrence, another the wife of John P. Hawxshurst, and the other at home with her mother and Will Thomas, who constitute the family. Mr. Miller still lives in the County at Sibley.





JOHN SCHLEGEL.



## CHAPTER VI.

Referring again to the incoming of Messrs. Brooks, McCausland, Webb and Campbell who settled on section 8 in the spring of 1871; they went to work and made continued improvements on their claims. While they were visiting with each other one day during the summer, they saw a covered wagon approaching and heard the sound of a voice singing "One Day's Journey Nearer Home." When the wagon had got up and stopped, it was found to contain John Cronk, — Coy and James Hankins, this last mentioned being a Methodist preacher, and it was he who was singing a Methodist hymn. The following day Hankins preached in Brook's house, to an audience of about twelve, and these were the first religious exercises held in the County, according to Webb's account of it. During the preaching Mrs. Brooks kept on with her bread making, for they couldn't live on faith alone, and this is told in the following article, written by John F. Glover, on the death of Mrs. Brooks which occurred at Denver in 1884:

### DEATH OF A PIONEER WOMAN.

In the summer and fall of 1871, the wives of C. M. Brooks, M. J. Campbell, W. W. Webb and D. L. McCausland, entered on pioneer life with their husbands, all four families having claims on Section 8, Range 99, Township 41, the section on which are now the farms of Deacon Herbert and Mr. Deitz. The settlements were made on Section 8 before there was a single soul on Section 13, Range 99, Township 42, where is now the flourishing town of Sibley. Mr. Brooks was in the land locating business, and his house was a home that summer for several of the women. Mrs. Brooks was the daughter of Rev. John Webb, a Methodist minister of Fayette, Iowa, later a pioneer settler and minister in Osceola County, still later a pioneer Presiding Elder in Dakota Territory, and now residing in Des Moines. She was very attractive in person, possessed of a good mind, and had a sensible way of doing the best that circumstances would permit, for the comfort of her household, and doing the best she could to be content. The following anecdote will illustrate her faithful performance of household duties: The greater than usual number of new comers at Mr. Brooks' made it necessary to





NORTHWESTERN STATE BANK, SIBLEY.



bake bread on the Lord's Day, and while the baking was going on, the little pioneer congregation gathered in the room to listen to a preacher—one of the new comers. In the same room were the baker and the preacher, and as the minister went forward with his discourse, so did "Mel," as Melvina Brooks was called by her relatives and near friends, go on with her baking. She realized that on her depended the feeling of hungry men, with appetites such as only pioneering brings to the table. Mrs. Brooks was the Martha of that little company. While others had nothing to do but listen, she had work to do for the listeners. She could both hear and work, and right down before the minister she baked the bread of earth while he spoke the bread of Heaven, and she did her work as well and as honestly as the preacher did his. It was thus she went forward doing the things most necessary to be done, and though possessed of a not very bad robust constitution did her full measure of work—having less in mind her own strength than the comfort of those around her.



## CHAPTER VII.

The western part of the County was settled first, owing to the prospective incoming railroad. Goewey Township and Gilman were as early settled as any, and, indeed, the very first settler took his claim in Gilman.

In 1871 there was living in O'Brien County, where Primghar now is, Mr. Charles F. Allbright. His home was a small one, we should judge 14x20, one story with small addition. This house was the general stopping place, not only for people from the north part of O'Brien County, but also Southern Osceola. It will be understood that at this time there was no railroad, and freight was hauled mostly from Cherokee, and the Allbright house was about the only one on the road in O'Brien County in making trips to and from Cherokee.

Mr. A. H. Lyman made the first track across the County from Allbright's to Goewey Township, and Mr. Lyman came into Osceola County in March, 1871. He came from Grant County, Wisconsin, and first settled upon and done his filing on the northeast quarter of Section 26, Township 98, Range 41, now Goewey Township. He put up a residence with a shingled roof, but the walls of which were built of sod. He broke about thirty acres that season, put in beans, potatoes, turnips and melons, and of these had quite a crop. His family came in October, 1871. Mr. Lyman's house then became the stopping place for that part of the country, and it was often crowded with people, sometimes the whole floor covered with lodgers, and, if not cold, some outside.

On this same section, in 1871, Douglas E. Ball and B. F. Mundorf took claims, and Adam Batie took his claim on the same section in the spring of 1872. Mr. Lyman still lives in Goewey Township. His reputation is that of an honest and hard working man, but Lyman is considered quite a talker. He is a man of ideas and likes to express them. Several were at Lyman's one day and a fellow by the name of Patch bet \$1 with Lyman that he couldn't keep from speaking for one hour. The money was deposited with the stakeholder, and the hour of silence commenced. In the course of half an hour some fellow came to the house to make some inquiries,



and the rest of them kept in the house to see Lyman wrestle with the stranger. His motions were the most awkward, for he couldn't answer the questions as his dollar was at stake, and finally the stranger left with the idea that Lyman had gone crazy.

The fore part of the summer of 1871 was a very dry one. There was not a drop of rain from the middle of March until the 16th day of June, and during that time of dryness several got out of the County, as they have got out of Dakota, for the reason, as they said, the County was too dry ever to raise crops.

In April, 1872, Walter Fisher and Reed Patch started west from Spencer to Lyman's place. They knew the quarter that Lyman was on, so took the bearings and navigated as the sailors do, by compass. They made it all right and reached the Lyman place safely. These three then went to Sibley with a sleigh. The ground was soft, however, and the creeks had some water in. While crossing the Otter the horses suddenly went down in the soft, watery snow, and went so suddenly it pitched Lyman out, who went in up to his neck. Lyman was got out and over the river, and Fisher, by careful work, got himself across, and the horses were unhitched and they safely landed. Patch determined to stick to the sleigh and not get wet, the other fellows he thought could look out for themselves. After the horses were got over, the boys hitched a rope to the end of the tongue of the sleigh to pull that out, and Patch was sort of crowing over his safe and dry-shod transportation. The horses started and the first jerk of the sleigh landed Patch into the creek and up to his neck. The boys got him out, but he was not only a sorry looking object, but had the appearance of a man disgustingly disappointed. Lyman thought honors were easy, and they soon got where their condition was made dry and comfortable.

In June, 1871, J. B. Lent, who was Treasurer of Osceola County, preceding Mr. Townsend, arrived at the Lyman place. Mr. Lent also came from Grant County, Wisconsin, and had started with some others for Nebraska. The others who started with him with teams kept on to Cherokee, while Lent diverted his course to go to Lyman's for the purpose of leaving some stock there for Lyman, they having lived in the same neighborhood in their Wisconsin home. The reason that the 16th of June arrival is so well remembered is that on that day the dry spell was broken, and Lyman and Lent gazed upon the falling water with supreme satisfaction and delight.





REV. S. C. OLDS.



Lent, after leaving the stock at Lyman's, went to Cherokee and told the rest of his party he was so delighted with Osceola County that he would settle there and go no further; they went on, except Louis Folsom and Lent, and these returned to Lyman's place. The first night they slept out under the wagon cover set on the ground, and during the night the wind blowed that over, when they went into the house. Lent and Folsom soon did their settlement and filing, Lent on southwest quarter of Section 24, Township 98, Range 41, and Folsom on south half of southeast quarter of Section 24, Township 98, Range 41.

The great thing to be feared then on an open prairie was a blizzard. The early settlers encountered several of them. In December, 1871, Dr. Hall, then living in Goewey Township, and his son, Arthur, a boy, started to the creek for some willows for fuel. While they were gone a terrible blizzard came up and they were caught out in it. They made their way towards home the best they could, but the blinding snow and extreme cold made it slow progress, and the oxen, too, were hard to get along. Soon the boy discovered that the father was missing and could not be found anywhere. Of course no search could be made, for the boy was struggling to take care of himself, but all at once Mr. Hall himself had disappeared, either strayed away from the boy or fallen in sheer exhaustion unable to go further. The boy went west for a while, then turned and went east again, and after traveling a few miles the oxen gave out; the boy then hollered as loud as he could, and as luck would have it he was near enough to the house of F. O. Messenger so that Messenger heard him and went in the direction from where the sound came until he reached the boy. The boy's hands and feet were frozen, but Messenger got him to the house and after a while the boy got around all right again. The oxen were also rescued. Dr. Hall himself perished in that December blizzard, and was not found until the spring of 1872, and was then found by Mr. Messenger's dog bringing to the house the bone from a human body, which was noticed, and Mrs. Messenger then directed the dog back and followed him to Dr. Hall's remains, which were but his bones. The boy, Arthur Hall, grown to manhood, now lives in Washington State. The blizzard in February, 1872, the same in which Nagg perished, was also a fearful one. The first day of that blizzard, Lyman with others went to Sibley to buy goods at Roger's store. The blizzard commenced while they were in town, and they





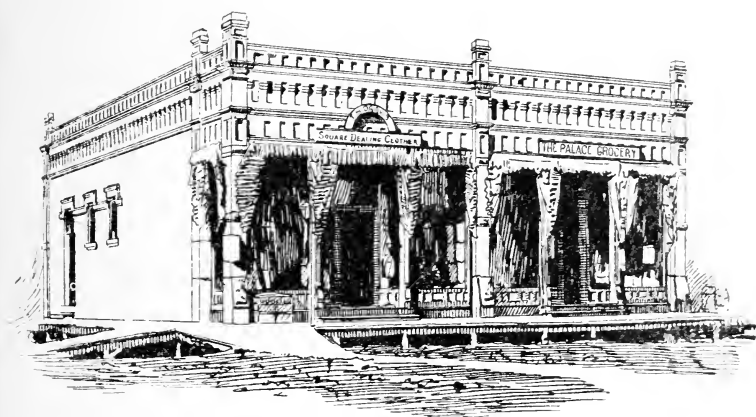
GEORGE T. VOOREES.



hurried up their purchases in order to return, and were soon on their way back again. It was a foolish start, but still they got through and no lives were lost. There were Lyman, B. F. Mundorf, Lon Sanfrisco, Eve Adler and A. Carpenter. When they got to the house of A. Romey, Mundorf and Lyman had about eight miles further to go, and Mundorf insisted on going and was bound to go. All the others objected to any such thing, and Mr. Romey declared that not one of them should leave his house. Mundorf, however, had made up his mind to go and go he would, and as there was no other alternative, Lyman, knowing that Mundorf would surely get lost, started with him. Nothing saved them but the team of horses Mr. Lyman was driving. They who are accustomed to the road know the great difference between horses in knowing the direction to go, and Mr. Lyman's team was of that kind which could find their way home in the darkest night or in any storm in which they could travel. This was the reason Lyman went with Mundorf, and Lyman made no attempt to guide his team but let them take their own way, and they landed these storm-driven settlers safely home.

At this time there was considerable of an attempt, and some of it successful, to hold claims in fictitious names and cover them up, so-called. It was done by filing applications in the land office at Sioux City, and the filer signing some name which would make it appear of record that the claim was taken. It took an incoming stranger a little time, using a western expression, "to catch on to the racket," but he soon did, and there was not much after all made in that kind of speculation. Soon after Lent and Folsom got here, and they, with Lyman and some others, were taking it easy sitting on the prairie grass at Lent's claim, a stranger, who gave his name as Freman, drove up and informed these gentlemen that they were trespassers on other people's claims; that he had done the filing for them, and they were now on the road to settle. Lent cross-questioned the fellow a little, Lyman gathered himself together for a controversy, and when the stranger had told all he knew about it and the boys had sized the thing up so that a conclusion was reached, Mr. Freman was told in a most emphatic manner, and in language that was not doubtful of construction, that if he was seen in that part of the country in just sixty minutes after that interview, they would hang him; and Lyman went to hunting a rope and to get the well ready to drop him in, when he started, to use Lyman's expression, as though the devil was after him, and was never seen afterwards.





LANSING & BROWN BUILDING, OCCUPIED BY T. H. DRAVIS.



Mr. A. Romey, who is now a merchant in Sibley, came to Osceola County in April, 1871. He drove through from Fayette County, Iowa, and William Barkhuff started and drove through with him; also, Mr. A. Carpenter. On the road, Mr. J. F. Jones, Joshua Stevens and Waldo joined them; also W. H. Lean. Mr. Stephens and Mr. Waldo have since died. Mr. Jones and Mr. Carpenter are still residents of the county. Mr. Romey filed on the northwest quarter of Section 4, Goewey Township. He put up a sod house, with shingled roof, and hauled his lumber from Sioux City. He broke about fifteen acres in 1871, but put in no crop.





T. H. DRAVIS.



## CHAPTER VIII.

In September, 1881, Henry C. Allen landed in Goewey Township. There came with him, August Thomson, C. Thomson and Francis Allen, these four forming the party. H. C. Allen settled on the northeast quarter of Section 8, in Township 98, Range 41, where he still resides, and the others filed upon and settled on claims near him, and are now non-residents. This party commenced housekeeping by putting up a house partly on three quarter-sections, making their home together until later on, when separate houses were to be built. In the latter part of 1871, H. C. Allen and Frances Allen drove their teams to Minnesota for work, and they remained there during the winter, Frances Allen stopping at Eagle Lake and H. C. going on further to Waterford. H. C. Allen took his family along with him, consisting of his wife and three children, and with them returned early in the spring of 1872. He drove to Minnesota with a wagon and started back with a wagon, but on his way was overtaken with a blizzard and a large fall of snow, so that he had runners put under his wagon bed. He was traveling alongside the railroad track, and a few miles beyond Heron Lake came to a deep ravine which was filled with snow and there seemed to be no way of getting across it, and, as Allen was anxious to get home before the time run out to get on his claim, he drove across the railroad bridge, it being a high and reasonably long one made in trestle work. It seemed a hazardous undertaking, but Mr. Allen got over all right, and in watching the horses ahead, had actually forgotten that he had one tied behind, but when fairly landed on the other side everything was all right and got over safely. Mr. Allen finally reached his claim, but before getting there went down into a slough which required the aid of his neighbor, Dagel, to pull him out. Someone had been in the house and left it open, so that everything was in confusion and covered with snow.

To one who drove over these prairies twenty years ago, the scenery now in comparison is beautiful and magnificent. Where stood the sod house and the usual 8 by 10 shack; there are now commodious and tasty residences, and groves, whose trees, dressed in their green and luxuriant foliage, add to the





JOHN F. STAMM.



beauties of nature, and mark the landscape with a fascinating and dignified splendor. Going back in remembrance to 1871 we could see a shack on Section 8, Goewey Township, which straddled the line of three quarter-sections, holding down claims for H. C. Allen, Frances Allen and one of the Thomson boys, not a tree in sight anywhere, and, in fact, not a house. We could see the boys figuring on how to get through the winter, and wondering what the country would amount to anyhow. But forgetting the past and looking at the living present, we saw that same quarter-section on 8, which Henry Allen settled upon in 1871, now under thorough cultivation, with a large barn and nice residence almost hidden in a grove of large trees, and everything about the place showing that its occupant is in comfortable circumstances and in the enjoyment of life.

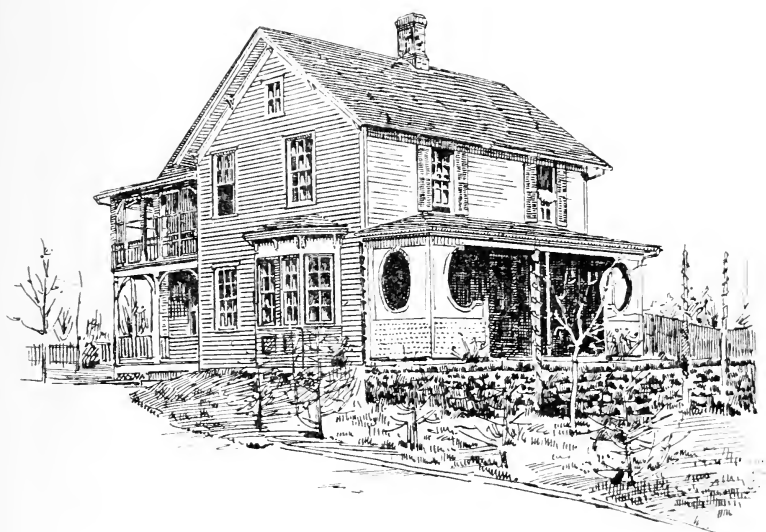
W. H. Lean came from Wisconsin and in 1871 settled on the southwest quarter of Section 6, Baker Township. Mr. Lean came with some others, previously mentioned, and returned to Wisconsin in 1871, and came back to his claim in the spring of 1872. Mr. Lean still resides on the same land, which now has a beautiful grove and fine residence, with other improvements. He is also the Goewey Postmaster. Mr. Lean found Nagg's body, the party mentioned elsewhere as lost in the February blizzard, 1872.

A beautiful residence greets the eye on the southeast quarter of Section 2, in Goewey Township. The elegant dwelling house and large barn are surrounded with large stately forest trees, and everything betokens thrift and comfort. The owner is O. B. Harding, who settled on the east half of southeast quarter of Section 2 in 1873, and has lived there since. Mr. Harding has since bought other land around him.

In 1871, W. M. and J. H. Dagel, brothers, came from Clayton County, Iowa, driving through with teams, and between them took the north half of Section 6, in Goewey Township. By work and economy they now own over 2,000 acres of land, and still live on their original claims.

In June, 1871, Mr. Thomas Jackson filed a pre-emption on the northeast quarter of Section 30, in West Holman Township. Mr. Jackson came from Wisconsin and after filing returned there, and came to Osceola County again in the fall of same year and again returned. In the spring of 1872 he drove through with a team, bringing his family with him. On this same section at that time there were settled William





J. W. ORD'S RESIDENCE, SIBLEY.



Jackson, William Anderson, Joseph Anderson, Mr. Aldrich and Charles Kent. Mr. Thomas Jackson broke about thirty acres in 1872, put up his shack in the fall of 1871, hauling his lumber from Heron Lake, Minnesota. Mr. Jackson, after living there about twelve years, moved to Farview Township, where he still resides, and is a successful farmer and a substantial citizen. The perils and troubles of emigration, in traveling some distance from the old home to the new one, are often many.

Early in the seventies there could be seen the emigrant wagons, reaching out for Northwest Iowa. They were called "prairie schooners." and a prairie schooner was, after all a peculiar institution. They navigated, sometimes single and alone, at other times in numbers like a fleet of vessels at sea. A Yankee boy, fresh from Massachusetts, when he saw one for the first time, said, "See that butcher cart, pa," for, sure enough, the meat carts in the cities of New England go about with a white covering. It was astonishing to see sometimes the amount of "truck" they carried and the number of inmates. We saw one in 1873, heaving into Osceola County, that had three trunks, two sets of harness, a sheet-iron stove, several bushels of potatoes, two dozen hens, and its inmates were man and wife and eight children; they also had cooking utensils, bedding, and feed for the team. This mode of travelling, too, when the roads are good and the party united and contented, is very enjoyable, and certainly very healthy. These emigrant wagons are now seldom seen, and when they are they are bound for Dakota.

In June, 1872, N. W. Emery drove through from Floyd County with a team and wagon, bringing his wife and one child (now Forrest Emery, grown to manhood.) Mr. Emery settled on the southwest quarter of Section 34, in Horton Township, where he still resides, in easy circumstances and with the respect of the people. The first summer he lived in his wagon; that is, this was his only habitation. In the fall he put up a house, 12 x 14. Owing to grasshoppers later on, Mr. Emery returned to Floyd County and remained during the winter, where he could find something to do. The following spring he returned, driving two yoke of oxen, and he certainly had a time of it, for the roads were bad, and until he reached Spencer it was nothing but mud and water. Five other teams were with him, of parties going to Dakota, and they stuck together, for they were useful to each other when one or the other got fastened in the mud when it took strength





F. M. ROBINSON.



to pull the wagon out. Emery's oxen pulled each of the others out several times, and once Emery's wagon was so deep in the mud and water that it took the five teams combined with Emery's two yoke of oxen to pull him out. So bad were the roads, that one day they traveled only nine miles, and Emery was delighted when he got back to his claim. The first season Emery did some breaking away from home for several weeks, which left his wife and the infant (Forrest) to keep house alone.

In all the hardships incident to pioneer life it is not only the men who endure them, but the women also, whose burden is as great, if not greater, to bear. Their work may not be as hard, but it is constant, and, with the care of the family and motherly anxiety, the world does not know, and never will, the mental anguish of a great many of the wives of pioneers who were making a home on these fertile, but then uncultivated, prairies.

John P. Hawxshurst came in March, 1872, from Wisconsin. He settled upon the southwest quarter of Section 22, Township 100, Range 42, and is still a resident of the county. Mr. Hawxshurst helped start the Sibley Gazette—laid the type from the "original packages" into the case, and was with the paper until 1885. At one time he was sole proprietor, and during the grasshopper raid had a hard time of it indeed. At one time, for about a month, he did not take in any money, nor pay any out, nor did he have any in his pockets. His cash account was not hard to keep, and no doubt there was many a country printer then wondering half the time where his next meal was coming from.

In September, 1871, Mr. John L. Robinson landed in Osceola County from Alamakee County. His son, F. M. Robinson, afterwards County Auditor, had preceded him, and Frank met his father and mother and one sister at Algona, and all drove over from there. They took their claims on a different part of Section 28, on what is now West Holman, put up buildings and commenced living. Mr. J. L. Robinson is still living in the county, at Sibley, and F. M. Robinson is at Atlanta, Georgia. As will be seen by referring to the Sibley records, F. M. Robinson put up the first building on the Sibley townsite. Afterwards his father moved into the building, and lived there during the winter of 1871 and 1872. While he was living there, in the fall of 1871, the portly form of Elder Webb darkened the doorway, and went into the room while Robinson was putting slough hay and broken



weeds into the stove. This was the first time the Elder had seen that kind of fuel, and he was surprised that it could be utilized as a warmth producer. Mr. Robinson was the first Justice of the Peace in the county, and the office came to him by appointment. There being some irregularity in the appointment, Mr. Robinson afterwards stepped down and out, but while he was in, some cases came to his court. The first one brought, and, indeed, the first suit in the county, was between Everett and Freeman, over a yoke of oxen; and, like sensible fellows, they afterwards settled it. This was before there were any lawyers here to back up the respective sides of a controversy. Mr. Robinson's daughter, Ellen, who came with him, was afterwards married to Charles M. Brooks, now a lawyer at Sibley. The lumber with which F. M. Robinson put up his first building was hauled from Windom, Minn., and afterwards they did hauling from Cherokee.



## CHAPTER IX.

There is much of individual heroism in common life that is lost to history, and which is not blazoned among the distinguished deeds which make some men famous and their names immortal. Some military chieftain in the nick of time, and by natural genius and adroitness as well as personal courage, drives the enemy into a general slaughter, and his government, with fulsome praise, sends his name down the ages, and all time has a hero fearless and undaunted. Sometimes the greatest of all heroic acts are manifested by one in the humblest walks of life, which find no recognition in the record of history, for it is only in the exalted stations of life that the names of men glitter on the scroll of fame, and much that is the most heroic of all heroism dies with the hero. We have an old newspaper which recites the conviction and execution of a negro slave, in which case Henry Clay was the public prosecutor. The negro was a faithful servant, and had not been accustomed to the degradation of corporal chastisement. During a temporary absence of his master, he was placed under the charge of a young and passionate overseer, who, for some slight or imaginary offense, lashed him cruelly with a horse-whip, and brought wicked blows about the head that were unmercifully given. The spirit of the slave was aroused, and, seizing a weapon that was near him, he laid his overseer dead upon the spot. Soon after, he was borne to the place of execution, and the pride of character he there displayed was worthy of a Roman patriot. Being asked whether he was anxious that his life be spared, and, answering under a feeling of the injustice that had been done him and under the fact that he was in bondage, he replied proudly and sternly: "No! I would not live a day longer unless in the enjoyment of liberty." The pages of history might be searched from the beginning to the present, and nothing in the notoriety of preserved events would exceed this personal proudness and bravery of an obscure slave, whose words are lost in the din of pyrotecnic words over names which were prominent with the people.

Carrying the thought still further, one does not need to go to a battlefield, or to find tragedies in blood, for the world's greatest heroes. Many unknown in life, bearing its





E. M. TAYLOR.

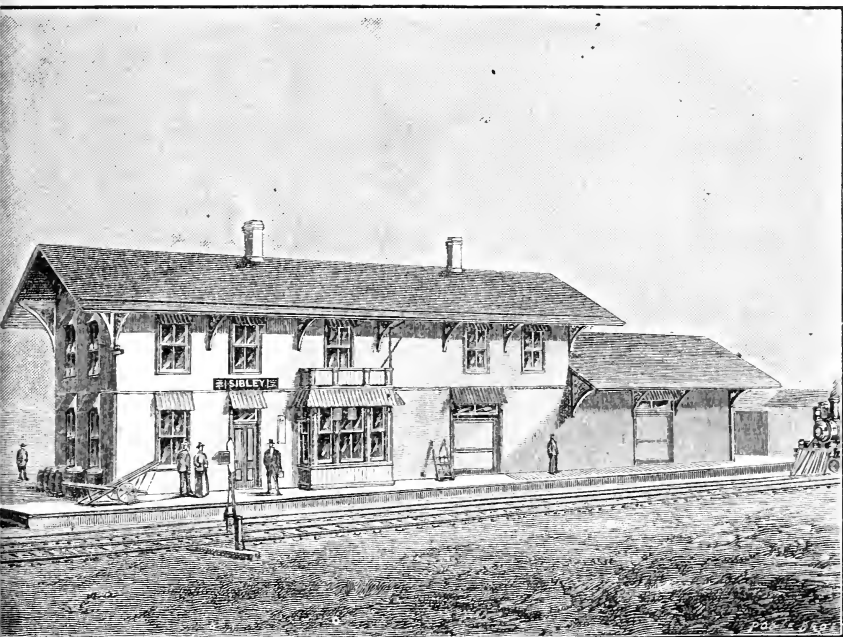


burdens under difficulties and under depressing circumstances, and under the crushing conditions of poverty and misfortune, are heroes, and the women who toil with them are heroines. The writer in the early seventies knew several families in Northwest Iowa who were without money, without friends—for the world is cold and uncharitable to the borrower—whose crops were an utter failure, and where existence was continued by living on anything that was accessible, and whose diet principally was corn ground in a coffee mill. We who are living in the present progress and prosperity of Osceola County cannot realize the crushed and despondent heart of many a mother whose little ones, in the early days of the county's history, were crying for bread, and where but inch boards protected them from the severity of winter, huddled around a fire made by twisted hay, and whose one hope was in a change, which the future, dark and doubtful, would bring to them. These early settlers who were thus battling against the misfortunes of the county then were heroes.

The early days of Osceola county, from 1871 on, were hard and trying to settlers who were endeavoring to make a home here and establish a farm on the prairie. Most of them came without means, and depended on their grit and muscle to pull through. Those that brought money with them, and were reasonably well fixed to start on, seemed to be the most unfortunate after all, especially when the grasshoppers came, for the reason that they did not hesitate to use their means in building good houses and surrounding themselves with comforts and conveniences, expecting an early return for their investments. But when the pocket-book became empty, and no crops as expected and no value to land, they were not only discouraged but disgusted, and soon got out, while the fellows who started with nothing were more inclined to stay it through, still hoping to realize and get return for their labor.

We can easily see how much grit and determination it took to stay here several years, one after the other, without a crop at harvest time, and still stay another winter and burn hay and take chances on enough to eat. Money could not be obtained only on gilt-edged security at a rate of interest from three to eight per cent. a month, and sometimes at ten. Many a farm and much live stock and farm machinery of these early settlers passed into the hands of these money lenders; we cannot say unjustly so, but as a matter of business, because the money was due, the debtor unable to pay, and that





B., C. R. & N. DEPOT, SIBLEY.



insatiate and inexorable Shylock, the chattel mortgage, must have what its description calls for, and without delay. Some were crushed under the burden of debt, and ran away from it, glad to escape the annoyance of creditors, and into an atmosphere of peace.

Others still kept working on, toiling in the hope of better days, and under a feeling that no matter how black and hideous were the clouds of adversity, there was still a silver lining, and that in time the sunshine of prosperity would change the condition of things and gladden their hearts.

The days of Osceola County hardships are over. It has passed the period of settlement, of hard times, debt and adversity, and is today one of the most thrifty Counties in the State. In 1870 its beautiful but unbroken prairie land was waiting in mute silence for coming events; today its well cultivated farms, extensive and magnificent forest trees, with beautiful and comfortable residences show the wonderful progress and prosperity that can come to a country by the industry and thrift of a people, who under a government like ours know the value of a home. The county is still advancing, its population increases each year, its unbroken prairie is diminishing rapidly, and before another decade not a foot of wild land capable of cultivation can be found in the county. Its people are full of energy, have the best of social qualities, are intelligent and loyal. School districts and municipal township governments and the County administration, are all in the hands of men who are honest, capable and economical, and the future of the county is brilliant in everything that can lead a people up to the highest conditions of contentment, happiness and success. The older settlers, who have borne the "burden and heat of the day" and are here yet, have a feeling of pride in what the years accomplished, and the later incoming settlers realize that there is no fairer or more fertile agricultural country that the sun shines upon or was ever watered with the dews of heaven. However much of adversity or hardship our early settlers had to contend with the clouds have now rolled by, and other people in the experience of a like misfortune cannot only have our sympathy, but would find us charitable enough and sufficiently able to pour into their lap the surplus treasures of our own productive soil.





W. H. GATES.



## CHAPTER X.

In May, 1871, W. H. Gates arrived in Osceola County from Buchanan County. He started with O. Dunton and T. J. Cutshall, Dunton and Gates having teams and outfit of their own, while Cutshall was sort of a passenger with them. Gates filed on the southeast quarter of Section 26, Township 100, Range 42, and Dunton and Cutshall on the south half of Section 32, Township 100, Range 41. They built, to start on, a sod house on Dunton's claim, and made that their headquarters. Mr. Gates returned soon after for his family, and brought them out in the fall of 1871, and lived in the Dunton sod house during the winter of 1871 and 1872, and in the spring of 1872 he built a small house on his own claim, which is still there, and Mr. Gates still owns the land. At present he is County Recorder. In the fall of 1871, after Mr. Gates had become settled with his family, he met Mr. Glover for the first time. Glover ventured over to the Gates household, bringing a tin pail, bearing all the marks of a siege in batching. He modestly and timidly inquired if he could get some milk, which was generously supplied him, and John was treated so hospitably he ventured another request, doubtfully asking Mrs. Gates if he could get a piece of pork rind to grease his griddle for pancakes, and the request was accompanied with a skillful gesture of the hand, following the movement usually made in greasing a skillet for that purpose. Glover was surprised with a nice piece of pork from a barrel which Gates had brought with him, and the ex-Representative went home in a feeling of supreme delight. Mr. Gates was very much afflicted that winter with acute rheumatism, and no physician within forty miles. After laying helpless for about a month he got about again.

Cutshall alternated for several years between his claim and cobbling shoes at Sibley. He now lives at Omaha, Neb. Dunton a few years ago went to Dundee, Ills., where he now lives.

During the season of 1871 deer and elk were plenty in Osceola County, and they who were hunters and good marksmen had plenty of it. The next season, of 1872, the incoming railroad and influx of settlers drove them westward, in the





W. B. STEVENS.



same direction civilization pushes the Indians—towards the setting sun.

This Township, in which Mr. Gates settled, as will be seen elsewhere, was first named Fenton and afterwards Viola. But few of the 1871 and 1872 settlers are left in the Township. In 1871 John Stamm and Robert Stamm came to the County, driving through with teams from Jefferson County, Iowa. John settled on the southwest quarter of Section 34, Viola, and Robert on the northeast quarter of Section 4, Holman. We will now continue as to Viola Township. John Stamm is still a resident of the County, and was elected Sheriff in 1891. Frank Vanamburg settled in 1871 on the southeast quarter of Section 34. The same year Theodore Stage took a part of Section 30. Mr. Stage now lives at Little Rock. Also in 1871, John Smith and his mother took the northwest quarter of Section 20, he taking one and his mother the other eighty. On this same section C. C. Collerson also settled in 1871. H. W. Tinkhum settled the same year on a part of the northeast quarter of Section 26. Mr. Tinkhum is now at Barraboo, Wis. The remaining part of the northeast quarter of Section 26 was taken by Eleazer Headley in the spring of 1872. He is now in Indiana. On this same Section 26, J. S. Patterson in 1871 took the northwest quarter. He came from Cerre Gordo County, Iowa, and still lives on the same piece of land. On the southwest quarter of Section 26, J. W. Blair settled in 1871. He still owns the same piece and resides in Kansas. J. W. Nimms filed on the northeast quarter of Section 34 in 1871. On the northwest quarter of same section, J. T. Barclay settled in 1872, and put up the usual shanty. He sold the land afterwards to W. E. Ripley, and Mr. Barclay resides in Sibley. Also in the spring of 1872, H. Jordon settled on the southeast quarter of Section 28. Mr. Jordon was afterwards a lawyer in Sibley, and died in ——. The remainder of Section 28 was taken by George Carew, the northeast quarter; D. B. Wood, the northwest quarter; and Mr. Willie, the southwest quarter. Mr. Carew still lives in Sibley, and his claim is now owned by Jacob Brooks. Mr. Wood now lives in Springfield, Missouri.

The northwest quarter of Section 32 was taken by James Dalton in 1871. He now lives in Buchanan County, Iowa, and Mr. Shapley owns the claim. George S. Downend, in the spring of 1872, filed on the northeast quarter of Section 32, and still lives on the land, with good improvements. Mr.





JOHN F. GLOVER.



Downend was from New York, was in the war, and went home on crutches.

Patrick Piesley came to the county in 1871, and took the southeast quarter of Section 32. He returned to his former home in Wisconsin, and was married there July 3, 1873, and still lives in Osceola County on the same piece of land. The southwest quarter of this same section was taken by Abraham Shapley in the spring of 1870. Mr. Shapley drove through by team from Clayton County, and along with him was N. D. Bowles and John Gray. He put up a comfortable house, hauling his lumber from Worthington. Mr. Shapley had a blacksmith shop, and, like the rest, had a hard time at the start. After he had got through June of that year, he had just three nickels left; but he had other capital, consisting of grit, of muscle and ambition. Mr. Shapley still lives on the same place, has fine improvements, owns a section of land in the county, and this year will establish his residence in Sibley, and take life easy.

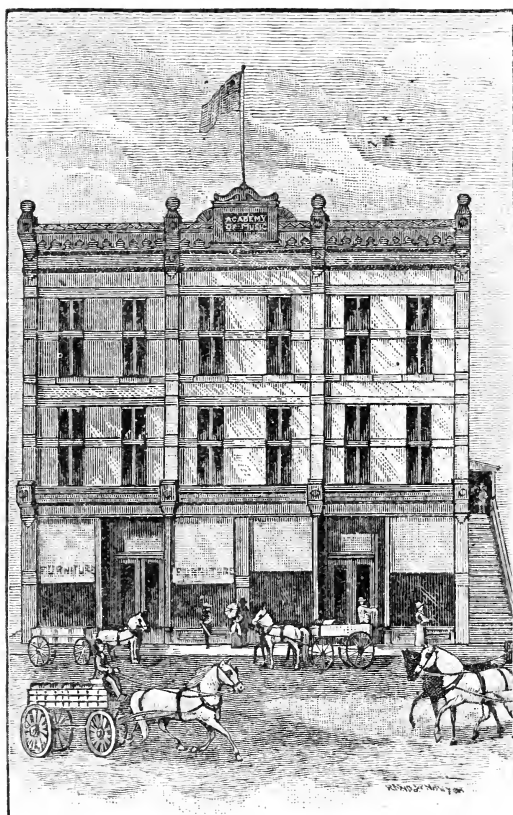
Asa Vanblorcon settled on the east half of the west half of Section 30, in 1872, and is still living in the same place. On this same section, Mr. Knowlton took the southeast quarter in 1871. Mr. Shapley now owns the land. The northeast quarter of Section 30 was taken in 1872 by Henry Graham, who has since died. On a part of Section 20 Mr. Samuel Smith filed and settled in 1872. He put up first a sod house, and now has a fine residence and is still living on the place.

John Pann also filed on a part of Section 20 in 1872, and sold the land this year (1892). On the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 20, Edwin Smith filed in 1872. Mr. Smith still holds the land, and is engaged in the hardware business at Little Rock.

In 1872, A. B. Graves filed on the southeast quarter of Section 18, and has since died. A part of the northeast quarter of Section 18 was taken in 1872 by A. Averhill, who now lives in LeMars, but who still owns the land. Sidney Beckwith and Mr. Barnard took the northwest quarter of Section 18 in 1872, which quarter is now owned by Mr. Beckwith, and upon which he still resides. He has other land around, since purchased. The south half of the southwest quarter of Section 18 was taken by Mr. Beeman in 1871. Mr. Beeman perished in the February, 1872, blizzard. He was hauling logs and was lost in the storm.

David Averhill and Obid Averhill took the south half of Section 8 in 1872. David died about two years ago and Obid moved from the county.





ACADEMY OF MUSIC BLOCK, SIBLEY.



On the west half of the southwest quarter of Section 10, William Rubow filed in 1872. He still owns the land, but lives in Missouri. On this section also, Eugene and Charles Bennett settled in 1872. Charles returned to Illinois a few years after, and Eugene still lives in the county on the same land and is a prosperous farmer. On Section 22 M. D. Hadsell took the northeast quarter, John Hart the southeast quarter, J. P. Hawxshurst the southwest quarter, and C. C. Hadsell and John Joseph the northwest quarter. These all filed in 1872. The Hadsell's are in Nebraska, Josephs in Kansas and J. P. Hawxshurst resides in Sibley. Peter Shaw and Charles Shaw came in 1872, and filed between them on the northeast quarter of Section 14. Prof. J. F. Ranson filed in 1872. He left the county some years ago, and lives in Florence, Kansas. Also, in 1871, C. C. Ogan filed on the southeast quarter of Section 14. He died since in California. On the southwest quarter of Section 14, John H. Douglass filed. This gentleman is elsewhere mentioned.

The Scribner family among themselves took Section 12 in 1872, and have since moved away.

On Section 24 N. J. Wetmore filed on a part of the southeast quarter, Merritt Winchester on the southwest quarter, G. W. Ketchem on the northwest quarter, all in 1872. Mr. Wetmore is in DeKalb County, Illinois, Mr. Winchester in Des Moines, and Mr. Ketchem went to Sioux City; he is now preaching on the Pacific Coast. Levi Shell settled on the southeast quarter of Section 36 in 1872. Mr. Shell has been here ever since, and is now in the lumber trade a Sibley. Joseph Ferrin, C. F. Torrey and Rev. Jones also filed in 1872 on other parts of the same section. These parties who filed on Section 36, except Mr. Shell, have been away from the County several years. These settlers in Viola who are still here have weathered the disagreeable hardships of the first years of pioneer life, and are now comfortable and well off. Mr. John Stamm's first wife died in the county in 1885. Viola is a thrifty township, and one of the most prosperous in the County. Among its leading farmers, in addition to those already mentioned, are the following named gentlemen: A. Ackerman, B. Ackerman, W. M. Achenbach, C. Barnum, R. Black, S. M. Bullington, T. Boyenga, C. Bauman, W. Beckman, H. Branidt, W. Christian, J. W. Councill, Henry Douglass, S. R. Dunwoody, W. Downs, D. Dexter, E. Fisher, Geo. Gates, H. Hincuch, H. Hatterman, L. Hoffman, J. Hollenbach, E. D. Hollenbach, H. Hall, H. M. Heindres, H. Houke, John





E. A. BUNKER.



Iverson, G. C. Iverson, B. Koolman, I. Kimball, W. Kuhn, P. Keer, F. E. Kennedy, A. Kiser, C. Kreager, A. Lusk, H. Luterman, J. M. Likes, H. Likes, J. Mont, D. H. Morse, S. Newman, T. P. Norman, N. Olson, J. Peters, B. Robert, J. Rain, F. Rubow, P. Rehms, J. Rohger, S. B. Smith, H. Soins, C. Shroder, W. F. Smith, H. Temmenna, T. W. Tarbell, John Tann, S. S. Thatcher, H. Vietmeyer, C. Vink, W. J. Wohleater, A. A. Wyant, T. Wyant, R. Wyant, T. P. Wald-ran, Fred Witt, J. H. Harbets, J. Harbets, W. Harbets.



## CHAPTER XI.

In the fall of 1871 S. J. Cram came from Alamakee County and settled on a part of Section 32, in what is now Wilson Township, and still resides here. W. W. Cram, a brother of S. J., also came in 1871 and filed on a part of Section 14, in West Holman Township. He left here in 1882, and now lives at Butte, Nebraska. A. H. Clark also filed the same year on Section 32, in Wilson Township. In Holman Township at this early day, S. A. Wright settled on a claim, also the Halsteads, father and son, F. R. Cole, O. C. Staplin and the Widow Rosenbury, and Randolph Kinney on Section 28, in Wilson Township. S. A. Wright was Treasurer of the County one term, and now lives at Beatrice, Nebraska. O. C. Staplin still lives in the County on the original claim, and is one of our pushing farmers. S. H. Westcott came from LeMars to Osceola County and filed on a claim in the fall of 1871 on the southeast quarter of Section 22, Township 99, Range 41. Mr. Westcott has held township and County offices, and now lives in Sibley. In April, 1871, there came from Alamakee County to Osceola Mr. E. Morrison, R. O. Manson, F. M. Robinson, W. W. Cram, Myron Churchill and Thomas Parlan; these came to file on land, and with them to see the country was Mr. McFarland. Mr. Morrison settled on a part of Section 10, in Township 99, Range 42; Mr. Manson on northwest quarter of Section 24, West Holman; F. M. Robinson on ———, West Holman; Myron Churchill on a part of Section ———; and Parlan on ———, while Mr. Cram has heretofore been described in his location. Mr. Morrison now resides in Sibley, having been here since his first settlement, except to return for his family in the fall of 1871. Mr. Manson still resides on the claim originally taken.

After these incoming settlers had got here from Alamakee County, they looked around and decided upon the claims they wanted. A part of them then started for Sioux City to file, while Mr. Morrison drove to LeMars to get some groceries, for there were no provisions left, and it was a long ways to market. When Morrison got to the Huff shack he found that Mrs. Huff was out of bread and no flour to make any; he then had to drive to Orange City, or where Orange City now is,



before he could get anything for himself or team. In the meantime he had left Robinson, Manson and McFarland at Frank Stiles' habitation. This consisted of an old stage coach, approximating the Deacon's one-hoss shay when it fell to pieces. Stiles had hauled it to his claim and placed it there as a settlement which the law required. At this stage coach Morrison left the three parties above named, they to wait until Morrison returned with something to eat, but hunger got the better of them, so they started on southeast to find somebody, or something to eat, and came across a shack near the Ocheyedan where Mr. Miller lived, but here there was nothing to eat so they returned again to Frank Stile's cottage on wheels. After about forty-eight hours' absence Morrison returned, and by this time Robinson, Manson and McFarland were in about the same condition that Greeley was when discovered in the Artic regions. They were handed out some bread, and the loaves disappeared about as fast as water in a gopher hole, they couldn't wait for butter or anything else, but soon the boys felt better with a satisfied appetite.

W. A. Morrison, a brother of E. Morrison, came in July, 1872, and made settlement here, but left the county a few years ago and now resides in Kettle Falls, Washington.

In June, 1871, Rev. Smith Aldrich arrived in the county and settled on Section 30, west Holman. When it became known that Aldrich was a preacher, it was thought best to have services the following Sunday, so E. Morris and some others went around to what few there were and gave out the notice. The preaching was in Morrison and Churchill's shack. There were about twenty-five present, and this sermon, no doubt, was the first preached in the county, though W. W. Webb claims that some other was the first. In the fall of 1871 Mrs. Aldrich, wife of the reverend gentleman, died on their claim. This was the first death in the county, and at that time the undertaker's shop was far away, so that Mr. A. M. Culver made the coffin and Mrs. John Douglass stained it with grape juice. The simple services at the funeral were impressive, for Mrs. Aldrich was a woman much respected. Her body was removed east some time after its burial here, and Mr. Aldrich himself went away after remaining here a few years.

Mr. Wallace Rea came here in the spring of 1872 and settled on the southeast quarter of Section 14, Township 99, Range 41. He is now at a Soldiers' Home. At the first school election held in the Rea district there were only three





W. H. NOEHREN.



present — Rea, O. C. Staplin and J. S. Reynolds. Staplin was Chairman, Rea the Secretary and Reynolds the people. A ballot was taken, and the vote stood: Rea, 1; Staplin, 1; Reynolds, 1. On the second ballot Staplin was elected. Reynolds declares that on the first ballot he voted for Staplin, and Staplin for Reynolds. At that time there was much eagerness for the establishment of a school, and it was all right in that feeling of personal anxiety for a fellow to vote for himself as school officer.

Of the early settlers in Township 100, Range 41 (now Wilson Township), but few remain. Will Thomas still owns the original claim, and in this township he still retains his residence. On Section 26, in this township, are two early settlers. Mr. John Klampe took the northeast quarter about twenty years ago, and still occupies it. On the southeast quarter, Benj. Davis settled in 1872, and has borne the burden and heat of the day from that time to the present, farming the same piece of land. Mr. R. S. Eakin also came to this township about twenty years ago, and first settled on Section 8. He now owns 240 acres on Section 28.

On the southwest quarter of Section 14, Mr. Jacob Widman has lived since about 1873. He has made very fine improvements, and on his place there is a spring of very nice water, which we believe is the only spring in the township.

On Section 32, lives C. P. Reynolds, who settled there in 1872, and has lived there continuously since. He has good improvements, and has been a member of the County Board of Supervisors.

The north tier of sections in Wilson, as in other townships on the north bordering the Minnesota line, are clipped off, or rather the surveyors run out of land when they reached the line; or, as some one with bar-room proclivities remarked, "they were lost in the shuffle." The absence of this north tier of sections has been the cause of trouble to some, as well as a loss of money, and has brought others to grief. Some years ago several sharpers, who were of that class of men constantly seeking opportunities to perpetrate a swindle, actually made conveyance of some of these quarter sections which had no existence to innocent and unsuspecting parties, who took the deeds all right and paid for the land, only to soon find out they had bought nothing, and couldn't buy what the deed described if they wanted to. Some of these villianous grantors were apprehended and made to languish in the penitentiary, and to suffer punishment for the crime which was involved in this method of conveyance.



Allen Cloud filed in 1872 on the northwest quarter of Section 34, and lived there until he died in January, 1884, and was buried in the Wilson Township Cemetery. His widow now lives in Sibley.

The only old settlers still living in Wilson Township are Will Thomas and W. A. Cloud.

Mr. C. E. Yates, on Section 10, went there about ten years ago; James Zweek, on Section 14, about five years ago, and Mr. H. A. Cramer, on the same section, two years ago. The Makee boys, on the northwest quarter of Section 15, have been there some time.

Mr. Joseph K. Shaw, on Section 18, was reasonably early in settlement, as he filed on a claim and made final proof in 1876, and still resides there. On this same section resides Fred Theise and Mons Sorem. On Section 22, the northwest quarter, W. J. Miller filed, and still owns the land. The balance of this section belongs to the Thomas family, with Clifford Ling as renter. F. J. and J. D. Engle are living on the west half of Section 23, and on the northeast quarter John Ackerson resides. Other parties in the township, and among Wilson's best farmers, not before mentioned are Terkark Benezek, on Section 24, and F. A. Klampke, on Section 25. Mr. Klampke has 320 acres, and has lived there about 14 years. The east half of Section 27 is owned by Claus Klepka, who has lived in the township about two years. Mr. Comstock lives on the southwest quarter of Section 29; also, on the same section is H. S. Lindsey.

J. N. Robinson, on the northwest quarter of Section 30, owns the land, and has lived there about six years. On Section 31, Mr. W. C. Connor owns the northeast quarter, and on this same section lives Charles Hoffman.

Mr. A. B. Evarts is the owner of a part of section 32 and has lived there seven years. W. A. Cloud is on section 33. This gentleman has been in the township seventeen years, and would pass for an old settler. On the northeast quarter of section 34 lives E. A. Beaston, while the southwest is owned by J. W. Kaye of Sibley, and upon which there lives at present, Mr. H. S. Lindsey. Mr. N. W. Williams who settled in O'Brien County in 1871, has recently purchased the northeast quarter of section 36 and will soon be a resident of Wilson. In 1871 W. N. Bull settled on the northwest quarter of section 26. Mr. Bull still resides in the county at Sibley.



## CHAPTER XII.

There ought to be the strongest ties of feeling between the old settlers of a country who have remained with it and borne the burden and heat of the day, and there is. By reason of the weakness of human nature there may be sometimes a hostile feeling over some petty and insignificant affair between neighbors, but, as a rule, the surviving settlers of a new country whose experiences run back a quarter of a century are attached to each other; it would be unnatural to be otherwise. Age may bring upon us its infirmities; it may palsy the limbs, and gather the crows' feet insidiously about the eyebrows, but as long as the faculties remain we shall ever retain a feeling of fond recollection of the scenes and incidents of other days, and of those who shared with us its experiences, its joys and sorrows. And then again, people who bear the same misfortune together become united in each others interest and are bound together.

Every new County has to wrestle in the throes of doubt and difficulty. The incoming population are generally of moderate means, and come for the purpose of building a home and acquiring a competence. The first acts of settlement are liable to absorb the little that was brought with them, and for a time it is a struggle with hardship, and sometimes for the necessities of life.

Their manner of living was not in commodious dwelling houses, but in what was called a shanty or a shack. A settler's shack, or shanty, was an exclusive western institution. It was the first castle of the settler, was of generally uniform size, 8x10, with a shed roof and tar paper covering. If anyone doubted the continuous residence, the shanty was referred to as the mute but standing witness, and the doubter became silent under this avalanche of proof. There was also provided a stove pipe, projecting through the roof, and this, added to the shanty, emphasized the good faith of the settler. Occasionally when the shack was left too long to itself, some mischievous or malicious fellow carried away some part or all of it, and the place that once knew it, knew it no more forever; but among settlers themselves it was regarded as the sacred habitation, the legal improvement, and everybody was warned





CHARLES M. BROOKS.



neither to disturb nor molest it. Sometimes, instead of this kind of a habitation, the settler had a dugout or a sod shanty. A dugout consisted of an excavation in the ground, a hole large enough to live in, with a covering to it of some kind, sufficient to shed the rain and enclose it; or, if the opportunity was had, it was built into a knoll or the side of a hill. One room served all the purposes of the homesteader and his family. If he prospered for a season he would add to the front of his abode by erecting walls of sod on the sides and putting in a new front; the old would serve as a partition between the two rooms. You would often, upon entering such an abode, be surprised, for once you got through the narrow hole, called a door, to get into it, you would find elegant furniture, left over from the former residence, and an organ with an imposing cathedral back, towering high in one corner of the room.

Sometimes a settler's claim would be jumped, as they called it, but jumping claims was a very disreputable and sometimes a serious business. It was expected in those cases where a party entirely neglected his duty as a settler and paid no attention to the requirements of the homestead or pre-emption law, that some one who could comply would take the land and earn it with a continuous residence. But where the settler was performing his duty to the best of his ability, and was faithful to his claim, with good intentions, then he who undertook to deprive him of it was a miscreant, and the neighborhood would sit down on him with a determined vengeance. Any person of character and respectability would not jump a claim without the surest and safest of reasons, and where a claimant abandoned his claim without actual settlement, and with continued neglect, then it was the duty of any seeking government land to take it, and let the other party lose his rights by his delay. They did not blame anyone for jumping a claim where the claimant showed bad faith, but where good faith was exhibited, then the act was reprehensible.

We will conclude this chapter with an experience of W. R. Boling: Mr. Boling came to Osceola in the fall of 1872, and left papers for filing on his claim in Horton Township, where he now resides. He returned and remained that winter in Poweshiek County, and came back to Osceola in the spring of 1873. While traveling out, he was joined by Ol. Hemmenway and John Wood, who were pointed for Sheldon, and settled there. Boling's trip was uneventful until he



reached the Little Ocheyedan, about ten miles south of now Ocheyedan Town, and was then on his way to Sibley. The river from heavy snows that winter had become quite a stream, but the ice was still underneath in some places. Boling had a span of mules, a covered wagon filled with the requirements of a settler, and the difficult task of crossing the Ocheyedan was before him. He took a long pole, walked in sounding the bottom to decide the question of safe crossing, and satisfied himself that he could make it. He got aboard the wagon, started up the mules and ventured to cross. When he was about eight feet from the opposite side, the mules went into the water out of sight, also one of the front wheels, leaving the wagon partly tipped. Boling jumped into the stream to try and right things, but had a narrow escape from drowning and only by desperate effort reached the other side, and without time to worry over the fix he was in, went to work at once to save the outfit. One mule was completely under water, and the other had his head just out of it; finally Boling got one mule out and hitched on to the other one and pulled him out upon the bank more dead than alive. A mule's existence does not always require soft bedding and a palace barn, and this one's experience demonstrates the fact that a mule can be pretty well drowned and still live. Boling waited until both of them got life enough to travel, then rode one and led the other about eight miles to a settler's cabin, where he staid all night, and, returning next morning with assistance, rescued the wagon and its contents and renewed his journey.



## CHAPTER XIII.

The blizzard of January 7, 1873, was a fearful one, and considered as the worst this country ever experienced. These storms are generally disastrous for the reason that they come up suddenly. The morning may be fine and clear, causing people to start out on the prairie, and in a sparsely settled country where houses are several miles apart, a sudden blinding snow storm makes it almost impossible to find a shelter, and is extremely dangerous to any who are out. On the morning of January 7, 1873, the sun rose bright and warm, giving promise of a beautiful day. There was then a stage line between Spencer and Rock Rapids, the stage driver being Peter Baker. He started out from Sibley in the forenoon with one passenger, Mr. A. K. Jenkins, and when ten miles west from Sibley they encountered that terrible blizzard out on the unsettled prairie. It continued warm and pleasant until about noon, when the treacherous northwest wind commenced blowing and a dark cloud hovered in the western horizon. The snow commenced creeping and sifting over the ground in the peculiar insidious style so well known to every dweller on our broad and unprotected prairies. In a very short time the storm king was holding high carnival, and the air was filled with flying snow, driven by the force of the wind into the minutest apertures and piling it into drifts wherever it encountered an obstacle.

The storm raged with scarcely an abatement until Thursday morning, when the thermometer indicated 22 degrees below zero.

As above stated, Mr. Jenkins, in company with Mr. Baker, the stage driver on the Spencer and Rock Rapids Stage Line, left Sibley for the latter point named; when about ten miles distant from their destination the storm struck them in all its fury, so completely hemming in their horses that they soon yielded to the influence of the cold and sunk down in a deep snow drift and soon died. Mr. Jenkins tried to keep his blood in circulation by walking, but to the contrary, he became so helpless from the effects of the cold that even with the help of his companion he was unable to regain his seat in the coach. After eighteen hours insane from suffering he laid down before Mr. Baker's eyes and died.





E. R. HAZEN.



Meanwhile, Mr. Baker was conscious that he was losing the use of his limbs, and could render his companion no further assistance. Mr. Baker was found frozen to the knees on Friday afternoon about 3 o'clock, about one-half mile from the stage road; he was taken to the nearest house and cared for until the next day. He was then taken to Sibley. Soon after, both his legs were amputated, and on the 25th day of May, 1873, he died.

George Hamilton was out in the same blizzard, and a man of less nerve and endurance would have certainly perished. Mr. Hamilton started in the morning to go to Milford, and while only about four miles from home crossing the prairie the storm struck him. To face the storm and try to return would have been the height of folly. So that all Mr. Hamilton could do was to go with it. This he did, and kept on traveling until he came to a corn field, where the snow had formed in large drifts, and into one of these his horses got down. Mr. Hamilton worked with his horses until they were on their feet again, and then as night was coming on, he unhitched and after having shovelled the snow away from the front end of his wagon tied his horses there. Here he spent the night, with that terrible storm howling in its fury, with no shelter and really without sufficient clothing, for the storm wasn't looked for. He kept at work shovelling the snow away from where the horses stood and twice lay down near the horses feet and got into a dose, and each time a horse stepped on him, just enough to wake him up and he went to work again. It is only a wonder that he didn't go to sleep never to wake again, and probably such would have been his fate, only for the horses feet. Finally morning dawned and Mr. Hamilton feeling that he was near somebody's place, hollered as loud as he could and there came a response. By this communication of voice the parties living near by came to where Hamilton was and himself and horses were gotten over to the house, it being where — Smith lived. The horses were placed under shelter and soon Hamilton was in the Smith shack which had the comforts of a stove, red with heating. Mr. Hamilton found that his clothing was not proof against the driving snow, for it had drifted through in considerable quantities next to the skin. He staid at the Smith habitation two days, then when the storm was over made his trip to Milford and on his return found parties searching for him, supposing, of course, that he could not be otherwise than lost. This narrow escape which George Hamilton had in this April



blizzard shows how easily a man of caution and of excellent judgment can drift into danger, and where the chances of living are against him, but a blizzard on an open prairie, comes sometimes so unexpected and unlooked for that it is not a lack of caution nor an error in judgment to be caught out where life becomes suddenly in danger. Mr. Hamilton's claim, as will be noticed elsewhere, was then on Section 30, in Fairview Township. Mr. Hamilton believes that his deliverance was providential; that it was there on the prairie he made his first original prayer which God gave him then and there the assurance that it would be verified.

In this same storm a resident of Fairview Township lost his life. There was then a postoffice on the Spirit Lake and Worthington route, about a mile south of where the town of Round Lake now is. It was kept by William Mosier, and Mr. Wheeler, whose claim was on Section        in Fairview, was at the postoffice in Mosier's house when the storm came up. Wheeler started for home and unable to find his house, he wandered with the storm and at last exhausted, benumbed with cold, lay down and died. He got nearly to West Okoboji Lake in Dickinson County. He was found soon as the storm cleared up by Mr. Tuttle, whose house was not far away from where Wheeler perished.

Some others were out in the blizzard, but not far from home so that these got home safely.

One other death occurred in the county, that of Peter Ladenberger. After the storm he was missing and no trace of him could be found it was concluded that he must have perished. He was still unaccounted for until the 29th day of November, 1873, when the account of his being found, given at the time, is as follows: When Fred Krueger, while out hunting in the valley of the Ochevedan fifteen miles southeast of Sibley, found the remains of some person, they proved to be those of the unfortunate Ladenberger. Mr. Krueger did not inform any person of the finding of the remains until Sunday, when he related the facts to Mr. S. S. Parker. Early Monday morning Mr. Parker came to town and informed the proper authorities, who immediately summoned a jury, consisting of Messrs. McCausland, Parker and Warren; these gentlemen with the acting coroner, Mr. Turner, Dr. Mellen and some witnesses to identify the remains, started for the spot to determine, if possible, whose the remains were. The party proceeded eastward to the Parker settlement, where Krueger joined them; then going southeast



they crossed the Little Ocheyedon, the rolling prairie, and descended into the broad valley of the Ocheyedon. When near the junction of the Little Ocheyedon with the Ocheyedon, the party separated, and going to the southwest Mr. Parker soon discovered the remains. The dead man was lying—probably as he fell—breast down, with right arm thrown back. The skull lay a few feet from the trunk. At his right foot was a hole, and it is possible that the surface of the snow was on that account uneven and caused him to stumble. A pipe, a carpenter's pencil, a silver ring, several pocketbooks, cap and pieces of clothing were found. The remains of the body were placed in a coffin and taken to Sibley. The pocketbooks were thawed out, and furnished conclusive evidence that the dead man was Peter Ladenberger. On Tuesday the remains were buried. Mr. Ladenberger was a carpenter, and the last work he did was to put up the liberty pole on the court house. He came from Sheboygan County, Wis., and had no relatives in the county.

The first settler in Fairview Township was Mr. Ellis, who took his claim there in 1871. This was the only claim taken in that township during that year. There were considerable many claims taken in this township in 1872, the year of a general rush to Northwest Iowa. In April, 1872, George Hamilton settled in Fairview and took east half of the northwest quarter of Section 30. Mr. Hamilton drove with his team, his wife with him, from Clinton County, Iowa, and after taking the claim lived on it continuously until final proof, himself and wife not being away from it at the same time except one night. He has now other land adjoining, but of these early settlers in Fairview, who came there in 1872, Mr. Hamilton is the only one of them who still lives in that township. He put up on the start a very comfortable house, broke only about four acres the first year, but has since been engaged in extensive farming, and is a very worthy and substantial citizen of Osceola County.

S. A. Dove came to Fairview in May, 1872, and settled on the southwest quarter of Section 8. C. A. Foote the same year took the northeast quarter of the same section. During a later residence in the county, and after one of the blizzards, it was impossible to get around with a team, and the necessities of life to subsist upon were obtained by going on foot with snow shoes. Dove and John Hanna went to Worthington, eleven miles, with snow shoes, and drawing a hand sled. They hauled butter to town and returned with flour; there





JOHN A. FLOWER.



was no road, but they made the journey in a day, though their return was after dark. Dove came from Clinton County, Iowa, and drove through with a team. He put up first a sod house, in which he lived two years, and then built a frame house, and in 1890 moved to Ocheyedan, where he now resides.

Most of the settlers in Fairview have come at a recent date, and but few reach back any number of years. Among its leading farmers at the present time are S. Wright, Samuel Peterson, John Ward, Frank Palmer, Levi Coyour, Charles McLagen, S. C. Palmer, Fred Barneking, Fred Hindt, Ed. Ward, Thos. Jackson, W. E. Proper, D. A. Hall, John Hanna, Ed. Severence, Matthew Walling, William and Samuel Hanna, E. S. Webster, George Miller, Jerry Bean, Milton Woodrow, George Shephard, — Steinkuehler, W. D. Hendrix and William Mowthorpe.

The following is the way Osceola County stood in the year 1873:

#### CENSUS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY FOR THE YEAR 1873.

##### HOLMAN TOWNSHIP.

Number of dwellings	180
“ “ families	189
“ “ white males	320
“ “ “ females	281
“ “ persons entitled to vote	187
“ “ militia	153
“ “ foreigners not naturalized	3
“ “ acres of land improved	2,553
“ “ pounds of wool shorn in the year 1872	45

##### BUSHELS OF GRAIN RAISED IN 1872.

Wheat	2,269
Corn	4,800
Oats	1,572

##### GOEWEEY TOWNSHIP.

Number of dwellings	143
“ “ families	146
“ “ white males	277
“ “ “ females	199
“ “ persons entitled to vote	147
“ “ militia	1
“ “ foreigners not naturalized	1
“ “ acres of land improved	3,464



## BUSHEL OF GRAIN RAISED IN 1872.

Wheat .....	2,174
Corn .....	5,420
Oats .....	2,605
Barley .....	346

## FENTON TOWNSHIP.

Number of dwellings .....	39
“ “ families .....	40
“ “ white males .....	76
“ “ “ females .....	65
“ “ persons entitled to vote .....	43
“ “ militia .....	39
“ “ acres of land improved .....	866

## BUSHEL OF GRAIN RAISED IN 1872.

Wheat .....	694
Corn .....	2,265
Oats .....	680

## WILSON TOWNSHIP.

Number of dwellings .....	32
“ “ families .....	32
“ “ white males .....	64
“ “ “ females .....	63
“ “ persons entitled to vote .....	34
“ “ militia .....	22
“ “ acres of land improved .....	420
“ “ pounds of wool shorn in 1872 .....	5

## BUSHEL OF GRAIN RAISED IN 1872.

Wheat .....	39
Corn .....	1,337

## HORTON TOWNSHIP.

Number of dwellings .....	17
“ “ families .....	426
“ “ white males .....	40
“ “ “ females .....	30
“ “ persons entitled to vote .....	20
“ “ militia .....	18
“ “ acres of land improved .....	144
“ “ bushels of corn raised in the year 1872 .....	40



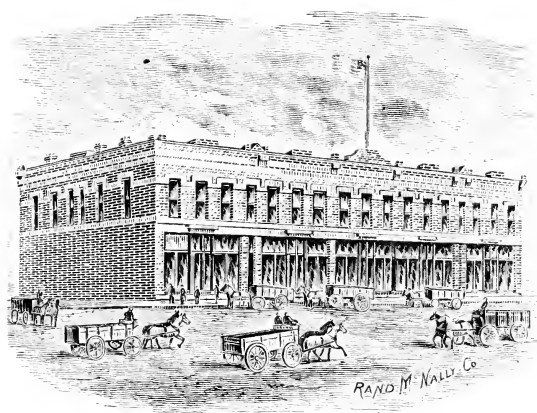
In 1873 Osceola County had the following:

Number of dwellings	419
“ “ families	426
“ “ white males	779
“ “ “ females	630
“ “ persons entitled to vote	431
“ “ militia	324
“ “ foreigners not naturalized	4
“ “ acres of land improved	7,444
“ “ pounds of wool shorn in the year 1872	50

BUSHELS OF GRAIN RAISED IN 1872.

Wheat	5,176
Corn	13,862
Oats	4,857
Barley	346





CENTRAL BLOCK, SIBLEY.



## CHAPTER XIV.

We will now leave the general run of settlement for a few chapters and speak of the County's finances in its method of doing business in the early days. Lawyers' fees seemed to be the most prominent method of "raising the wind." Winspear was a lawyer, Blackmer was a lawyer, and, indeed, it was the old saying repeated, that "Cæsar had a party, and Brutus a party, but Rome had none." Other lawyers, also outside the County, had a hand in it, but still there were several lawyers in the County at the time who were battling the gang in their thieving operations.

The early part of Osceola County, indeed northwestern Iowa, for the Sioux City lawyers, was, as Deacon Howell remarked of Lyon County, "a field for legitimate speculation." Sioux City itself then was not prolific with litigation, clients were not numerous, and the Argus eyes of some of its distinguished disciples of Blackstone magnified the gigantic wrongs of this grasshoppered district, and their tender sympathies were manifested by professional services and condolence to the tune of retainer fees, which in the days of old Rome would have made the eloquent Cicero himself blush with hesitation in receiving them. The many grievances that seemed to afflict these northwestern Counties then were simply astonishing, but the remedies suggested by the legal fraternity to be applied by use of County warrants were appalling and apparently numberless. Sioux City then was the guardian of these afflicted Counties, and when a steal was to be perpetrated, or when suspicion of its coming perpetration caused a ripple of comment and excitement among the people, then both boodler and reformer would hie themselves to Sioux City, and within the offices of their respective counsel the shadow of defeat for the one, or the sunshine of success for the other, would be thoroughly discussed, which would result either in an exhibition of unbounded "cheek" or a triumph for the watchers and waiters for an honest administration. But the time finally arrived when the scathing voice of the people brought these wild speculations and exorbitant retainer fees to a close, and County affairs were held down to the bed-rock of reason and economy, and there was established rules of good government and efficient administration, which no one since has been disposed to violate nor depart from.





J. W. KAYE,



# **Indignation MEETING**

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## **Swamp Land FRAUD!**

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An Indignation Meeting will be held at  
SIBLEY, MONDAY, AUG. 26, '72, at 2 p. m., for the  
purpose of taking action against the

**SWAMP LAND FRAUD.**

Osceola County does not wish to become involved  
in a debt of \$20,000.00 without anything to show  
for it. **COME EVERY MAN.**





W. L. PARKER.



The boodler gang which had fastened itself upon Osceola County in 1872, had by the boldness and mercenary motives of their operations, excited a strong and desperate feeling of opposition among the settlers. That year it was a theme for discussion, the topic of conversation, and taxed the ingenuity and better judgment of the honest element of the county as to what to do. Each side had their friends, and no other question entered into the election in the fall of 1872, except to elect into office representatives from one side or the other. On the 26th day of August, 1872, by a previous call, there was assembled in Sibley, near the Sibley hotel, a large concourse of settlers from all over the county, numbering about five hundred. These men were eager and determined in the feeling and spirit of reform, and were indignant. The meeting had been called by H. G. Doolittle, D. L. Riley and John Hawxshurst, and a circular requesting the settlers to meet had been sent over the county. The meeting was organized by electing D. L. Riley chairman.

It will be seen by the records of the board that there was to be swamp land selections, and that Frank Stiles was appointed to select them. Settlers in the county were afraid that this unscrupulous gang might report some of their claims as on the swamp land order, and thus complicate their titles and throw their claims into contest and litigation, which would be troublesome and expensive. This question was discussed at the meeting also, and several made speeches. However much the settlers then may have been poor in this world's goods, there was not at this meeting any poverty of language. Winspear himself appeared and made a statement that in swamp land selections it was the railroad company lands they were after, and not the land occupied by settlers. He also read a letter from the Sioux City attorneys stating this fact, and among other things the letter instructed the Board to issue the six thousand dollars attorney fee in warrants of one thousand each. Speeches were made by D. L. Riley, Hawxshurst, Doolittle and others, and the meeting finally culminated in appointing a committee of twenty-seven men, and these men were instructed to take the necessary steps to bring about the resignation of objectionable members of the Board of Supervisors, and to carry the feeling of reform into practical results in all departments of the county administration. This committee consisted of D. D. McCallum, George Hamilton M. J. Campbell, C. W. Wylls, M. D. Hadsell, John Douglass, E. Huff, Geo. Ketcham, John P. Hawxshurst, C. M.





W. L. PARKER'S DRUG STORE.



Brooks, F. M. Robinson, J. F. Glover, A. M. Culver, W. H. Gates, H. L. Baker, Robt. Stamm, H. G. Doolittle, C. C. Jewel, ——— Stickney, B. F. Tabler, C. C. Ogan, Rev. Jones.

This committee demanded of the Board of Supervisors that they resign. The committee also organized, electing George Ketcham Captain, John Douglass First Lieutenant and M. D. Hadsell, Second Lieutenant. Nothing was done by them except upon a general conference, discussion and deliberation, and a final decision by vote of the committee as to the moves to be made. It was first decided to proceed to the house of H. R. Fenton, and demand his resignation at once, and if he refused to resign to carry out the vigilance committee act, and suspend the victim, as is usual in such cases, in mid-air. About the first day of September in this year of 1872, the committee met at the house of C. W. Wyllys and at about 10 o'clock in the evening started from there and went to Fenton's house. The committee took a rope along with them sufficient in strength for the hanging, and if the demands of the committee were not complied with, were anxious to use it. The committee halted in the slough west of Fenton's house and sent the Captain and the two lieutenants to make demand upon the Supervisor. Inquiry was made at the house and the three committee delegates were informed that Fenton was away from home, and it was learned afterwards that there was a traitor in the reform camp, and that Fenton had been notified and was in hiding. Fenton was then living on Section 20, in Wilson Township.

The committee then proceeded to Winspear's house, which is where ——— now lives, and the larger part of them remained in the railroad cut, near the house, while a delegation went to the house to demand the resignation. Winspear and friends, this committee's representatives were informed, said there would be no resignation, and that the inside of the house was an arsenal, and any attempt at violence would be resisted and that somebody would be killed. The committee, upon learning this state of affairs, retired peacefully to their homes, and probably wondering when would this "cruel war be over."

The next day it was rumored that Stiles had a warrant of arrest for Douglass, so that this irrepressible Scotchman cleaned up his six-shooter, went to Sibley, and tackled Stiles about the warrant, which Stiles denied. At this time Stiles had appointed twenty-six deputies, for his own and friends'





HUGH JORDAN.



protection, and these were in Ward's saloon when Douglass went in. Their guns were standing around against the side of the building, when Douglass got some fellow to go around behind Pat Larkins' building and make a cry of fire, which he did, when the twenty-six deputies rushed out of the building at this unusual sound, and Douglass, left alone, dumped the shooting-irons through a trap door where there was about four feet of water.

In the fall of 1872 Blackmer and some others went to Sioux City with \$40,000 of Holman School District warrants for the purpose of negotiating, and D. D. McCallum happened to be in the city at the time and learning that these parties were there with the warrants and of their intentions, and knowing the fraudulent character of the paper, notified the banks so that Blackmer and his party were unable to negotiate them. Blackmer returned to Sibley with them, and was made to give them up, all but a \$1,000 warrant which was kept upon the statement that he had none left. A. M. Culver was then one of the most active participants in the opposition forces against the Winspear crowd. During the winter of 1871-72 Culver took Winspear to Sioux City in a sleigh, in February, and Winspear had with him the \$350 warrant issued for a map of the County which the County had not yet seen. Culver knew nothing of the warrant, and Winspear in the genial feeling of companionship, suggested to Culver that as he was Treasurer of the County, there was a chance to make some money, and upon inquiry from Culver how it was to be done, said, to buy the warrants at a discount and turn them in for cash. Culver replied to him that as a county officer the law forbid it, and aside from that he did not want to make money that way. Winspear negotiated the map warrant at Sioux City on this trip, and on his return Winspear was accused of selling the warrant which he did not deny, but undertook to lay some of the blame onto Culver and told their conversation, distorting and misrepresenting what Culver had said. There was a crowd of settlers on that day in Sibley and this trip to Sioux City being the topic of conversation, Culver mounted a dry goods box and with that spirit of energy characteristic of the man, and in a feeling of indignation, he told the conversation that had taken place between himself and Winspear and branded Winspear as a liar and a knave. This was expected by some to bring about an open warfare and a resort to weapons for the ripple of excitement was great and almost irrepressible, but the occasion passed off without disturbance, save





G. L. CASWELL.



and except a war of words. County officers then, as now, were required to give bonds, but as all were homesteaders a bond could not be given in the county that would fill the requirements of the law but bonds were accepted with such signers as the officials could obtain. Soon after the Winspear administration had charge of the affairs it was found that Culver would not do their bidding, so that under the pretense of apprehension Culver was notified that he must give a gilt-edged bond or the books would be taken away from him and he was given a certain length of time to procure the bond. Culver immediately, unbeknown to anybody, went to LeMars and obtained good names and then to Sioux City and obtained the name of T. J. Stone for \$5,000. When the board met it was supposed that Culver had been unable to better the bond and Sheriff Stiles was ready to turn Culver out, but the Treasurer showed up what he had and the Board relapsed into silence and acquiescence. The \$6,000 allowed to H. B. Wilson and Joy & Wright as a retainer on the swamp land business was paid, but no swamp land was ever reclaimed or recovered. In justice, however, to all parties concerned, we present the following communication from the attorneys, which appeared January 9, 1874:

EDITORS GAZETTE:

We are compelled, by the position in which we find ourselves placed, to make the following statement to the citizens and taxpayers of Osceola County:

It is well known to the majority of your citizens that we have been employed to commence and prosecute the necessary suit or suits to recover for Osceola County her swamp lands, and that a retainer was paid us for that purpose.

By the terms of the agreement entered into between the county and ourselves, the county was to employ a competent surveyor—accompanied with good and truthful men, as witnesses—to make a selection of swamp lands, and ascertain the owner or owners thereof. And under this agreement, but against our advice and in opposition to our protest, the Board appointed Mr. Frank Stiles to make said selection. We urged upon the Board that Mr. Stiles was not the person to make the selection, not from any animosity to him, but because he was neither a theoretical or practical engineer or surveyor; because he was at that time (whether justly or unjustly) unpopular with a large number of your citizens, and any selections he might make would meet with more or less opposition, by reason of a want of confidence in him.





W. R. BOLING.



Under said appointment, Mr. Stiles went on and made a pretended selection of swamp lands, and did the work in such a manner that it was universally admitted, by citizens of the county, that no action could successfully be maintained upon it. We so advised the Board of Supervisors—the selection was repudiated, and the Board agreed to have another and proper selection made. Soon after this a new Board of Supervisors came into office, and we have been constant and unremitting in our efforts to induce them to have the swamp lands of the county selected, so that we can commence the necessary suit or suits, but without avail.

Now we want the citizens of Osceola County to know and understand that we entered into an engagement with the county in good faith. It is impossible for us to make the selection; this the county must do, and the interests of the county imperatively demand that it should be attended to at once. For reasons, that it would be improper here to state, the county may lose her swamp lands if she does not move in this matter promptly. It is certain that further delay will greatly complicate the matter. If the county expects to acquire swamp lands, there must be a speedy assertion of her rights, and this can only be done by making the proper selections. We will not be answerable for the result of such delay.

We are about to commence the necessary suit to recover the swamp lands of Lyon County in the next term of the District Court, and it would be convenient to commence in your county about the same time.

We submit to the people of Osceola County that it is not treating us in good faith to place us in our present position in reference to this matter, and we wish it to be understood that if the swamp land claims of Osceola County are not prosecuted it will not be our fault.

H. B. WILSON,  
JOY & WRIGHT.

This sort of belligerent spirit, or fighting campaign between the contending forces, soon died away, and other and more peaceful methods were concluded upon. It was thought best to resort to legal proceedings and at the coming election, in the fall of 1872, to rally and elect a reform member of the board.



## CHAPTER XV.

PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, PARTIALLY GIVEN,  
INCLUDING ALL MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE.

The first session of the Board, and the session of the first Board, was held January 1, 1891.

The Board was called to order by County Auditor, and there were present as members J. H. Winspear and H. R. Fenton. J. H. Winspear was elected Chairman. Eldredge Morrison qualified as Clerk of Holman Township, A. M. Culver as Treasurer of the County, H. L. Clapsaddle as Justice of the Peace for Holman Township, Geo. W. Ketcham as Clerk of Horton Township, O. Dunton as Justice of the Peace for Horton Township, Frank Stiles as Justice for Holman Township, and Delily Stiles took the oath of office as County Superintendent of Schools. The Board then adjourned to the next day, and met with the same members present.

It was voted to give orders to Perkins Bros., of Sioux City, for books and stationery required for County purposes. C. M. Brooks qualified as Clerk of the District Court, M. J. Campbell as County Surveyor, and Geo. Spaulding appeared and took the oath of office as County Supervisor. Benjamin F. Cox qualified as Clerk of Goewey Township, and the Board then adjourned to January 3, the next day.

The Board met as per adjournment, at which meeting the above members were present, with the addition of Geo. Spaulding. L. L. Webb qualified as Constable for Holman Township, and D. F. Curtiss as Justice in Goewey Township. The following appointments were then made: — Garvin, Coroner of the County; Frank Stiles, Sheriff; and William Jepson, Justice for Goewey Township. A large number of petitions asking that County roads be laid out were presented and allowed, and the Board adjourned to the next day, January 4.

At this adjourned meeting January 4, it was ordered that the County Surveyor select ten sections of land that may be marked swamp lands on the district land office plat, or as near ten sections as he could. It was voted that Sibley be the county seat. Frank Stiles then qualified as Sheriff, John



Beaumont as Drainage Commissioner. Forty-five dollars was appropriated for paupers to be divided among the three townships. It was then voted to call a special election to vote on court house bonds to the amount of five thousand dollars; also to vote as to whether stock shall be prevented from running at large.

John F. Glover asked that the County Auditor be authorized to accept the bond of D. L. McCausland as County Recorder, which he was, provided the bond was presented by January 10, 1872. It was also voted to call for bids for a house 14x20 feet, to be used by county officers. Provision was then made for desks and fuel.

Salaries were fixed as follows:

Treasurer, for the year .....	\$1,000
Auditor, " " " .....	840
Recorder, " " " .....	500

The following accounts were then allowed:

Geo. Spaulding, supervisor and mileage .....	\$21 76
H. R. Fenton, " " " .....	17 44
J. H. Winspear, " " " .....	16 00
F. M. Robinson, services to Sioux City .....	60 00
H. R. Fenton, " " " .....	60 00
J. H. Winspear, " " " .....	60 00
William Hecker, maps of county .....	350 00
Frank Stiles, township trustee .....	2 00
John Beaumont, " " .....	2 00
H. K. Rogers, use of building .....	8 00

The Board then adjourned to meet February 12, 1872.

The Board met as per adjournment February 12, 1872, and the election in the mean time having been held to vote on the court house bonds and on stock running at large, the vote was canvassed and resulted as follows:

For court house bonds .....	9
Against court house bonds .....	52
For the act restraining stock .....	61
Against the act of restraining stock .....	1

The Board then recognized D. L. McCausland as Recorder and approved his bond, and also approved the appointment of John F. Glover as Deputy Recorder. The Board then adjourned to meet the next day, February 13.

At this, February 13, meeting Perkins Bros. were allowed \$300 on their bill for books. One dollar was allowed on the scalp of each fox in addition to the state allowance, and the salary of C. M. Brooks, Clerk of Court, was fixed at \$50 per





G. W. MEADER HARDWARE BUILDING.



month. It was also voted to advertise in the LeMars Vidette for bids for the erection of a court house to be 20x40 feet and paid for in county warrants. The Board then adjourned to meet next day, February 15.

The Board met as per adjournment, February 15, 1872. Their first act was to authorize the County Auditor to take legal measures to take the books of the County Recorder's office from John Beaumont and turn them over to D. L. McCausland. There was then allowed various bills for the support of paupers, county seals, Supervisors' services, and other things aggregating \$342.36, and after this the Board adjourned without day.

The next meeting of the Board was April 1, 1872, and at this meeting the reports of road commissioners were acted upon and several roads established and designated. John Beaumont was allowed \$30 salary while he was Recorder and D. L. McCausland \$62.60 for expenses in obtaining possession of Recorder's books.

The next meeting of Board was the next day, April 2, at which time other business was transacted with reference to roads. M. J. Campbell was approved as deputy clerk of courts, and Lewis E. Diefendorf as deputy treasurer. It was then voted to employ Geo. W. Wakefield to secure the adjustment of swamp land claims of the county against the United States.

The next meeting of the Board was April 3, and no business of importance was transacted.

The next meeting of the Board was April 4, 1872, at which time it was voted to accept the bid of Henry Phrings-ton for putting up court house building, for the sum of \$1,249. There was also bills allowed for several purposes, supervisors services, paupers, officers pay, etc., in all aggregating \$639.99.

The Board next met May 6, 1872. This session was not extended and no business of importance transacted. Bills were allowed for surveying, goods furnished county, expenses to Sioux City, etc., aggregating \$283.55.

Next meeting of the Board was held June 3, 1872, which was unimportant.

The Board next met on the 4th day of June, at which time Perkins Bros. were allowed \$1,500 for county books, and there was no other business except in connection with the establishment of roads.

Board met again June 5. At this meeting it was voted to appropriate \$500 in building a bridge across Otter Creek



on Section 15, Township 98, Range 42. Also the sum of \$350 to build a bridge across Ocheyedon Creek on the Ocheyedon Valley road, \$200 in bridging Otter Creek on Section 13, Township 99, Range 42, \$160 bridging Otter Creek on County road No. 11, and \$135 bridging Otter Creek on Section 12, Township 99, Range 42. There was also allowed various bills for salaries, fees, and other things, aggregating \$598.21.

The next meeting of Board was held June 6, and at this meeting no business was transacted, except bridging Ocheyedon Creek near Section 16, Township 99, Range 40.

Board met again June 7, 1872, and it was voted that sealed proposals be received for building six bridges. It was also voted—upon a petition presented by John F. Glover, John Beaumont and others—that Henry Phringston be allowed \$100 to release County from his contract to build court house, and that an election be called to vote on court house bonds to the amount of \$5,000 with which to build court house. Bills were then allowed to the amount of \$82.18, and Board adjourned to July 17, 1872.

Board met again July 17, as per adjournment, and nothing was done except passing the following resolution:

*“Whereas*, On the 17th day of July, 1872, by a decree of the District Court in and for the County of Osceola, in the State of Iowa, John A. Schmidt, Esq., recovered a judgment against the County of Osceola for the sum of three thousand fifty and twenty hundredths dollars (\$3,050.20), and,

*“Whereas*, On the 17th day of July, 1872, the said John A. Schmidt, Esq., under the provisions of Chapter 174, Laws of 1872, elected not to issue execution on said judgment, but to receive payment of said judgment in the bonds of Osceola County, bearing 10 per cent interest per annum, and,

*“Whereas*, In our judgment the interests of Osceola County will be best subserved and promoted by issuing said bonds, therefore be it

*“Resolved*, By the Board of Supervisors of Osceola County, that the County of Osceola do issue its bonds, in compliance with the election of said John A. Schmidt to liquidate said judgment, and that the President of the Board and the County Auditor are directed and instructed to duly execute said bonds under the seal of Osceola County.”

Board met again July 18, 1872, and at this meeting the votes cast for court house bonds at the second election were canvassed, and the following was the count:



## FOR BONDS.

Holman Township .....	57
Goewey Township .....	3
Horton Township .....	7
<hr/>	
Total number for .....	67

## AGAINST BONDS.

Holman Township .....	4
Goewey Township .....	10
Horton Township .....	8
<hr/>	
Total number against .....	22

Following this, the usual resolution to provide for bonds and carry out the vote was passed. C. I. Hill, Henry Phringston and D. L. Riley were appointed a committee to prepare plans and specifications for court house. The contract to build the six bridges mentioned in a previous meeting were then let to various parties, the six aggregating \$1,522. There was then appropriated \$135 to bridge on east line of Section 26, Township 100, Range 42; \$250 was also appropriated for bridge on Section 34, Township, Range 42; and \$300 for building bridge across Ocheyedan.

The next meeting of Board was held July 18. This meeting fixed the sheriff's salary at \$200 per year, and passed bills aggregating \$981.11.

The next meeting of the Board was held August 12, 1872. The following resolution was passed:

*Resolved*, That H. B. Wilson and Joy & Wright are hereby employed as counsel to prosecute the swamp land claims for the county, and that we allow them the sum of \$6,000 in county warrants as a retainer and compensation, and the Auditor is instructed to issue warrants for the same, and that the contingent interest in the lands that may be recovered shall not exceed the proportion they are to receive in Lyon County for prosecuting their swamp land claims."

Frank Stiles was appointed to make the necessary survey of the swamp lands, and his compensation was fixed at 10 cents an acre. The contract to build court house was awarded to Henry Phringston for \$3,447, and the court house was to be completed by November 1, 1872. Bills were then allowed for various things amounting in all to \$368.74.

Board again met September 2, 1872. Nothing was done





FRED H. BUNKER.



at this meeting, except such business as pertained to the establishment of roads.

Next meeting of the Board September 2.

The following resolution was adopted: "*Resolved*, That the chairman of the Board of Supervisors be hereby instructed to employ such counsel as he may deem necessary to defend the county in the measures now adopted by the Board of Supervisors." There was then allowed bills to the amount of \$388, and the Board adjourned.

Board again met September 17, 1872. There was considerable business done in the establishment of county roads, and levies were made as follows:

For State revenue, 2 ½ mills.

For ordinary county revenue, 4 mills.

For support of schools, 2 mills.

For payment of court house bonds, 5 mills.

For payment of interest on judgment bonds, 3 ½ mills.

There was also passed the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That C. W. Blackmer is hereby authorized to purchase fifty-one volumes of the Iowa reports, and that we, the Board of Supervisors of Osceola County, hereby appropriate \$700 for the purchase of the same, and the County Auditor is hereby instructed to issue that amount of County warrants to C. W. Blackmer, for the purpose of obtaining said Iowa Reports for the use of the county."

There was also allowed bills at this session aggregating \$600.08, among which were:

Frank Stiles, hand cuffs and leg irons .....	\$ 51
Frank Stiles, attending court with twenty-seven deputies, September 2 .....	56
Frank Stiles, attending court with five deputies, September 3 .....	12
C. W. Blackmer, attorney's fees .....	40
J. H. Winspear, attending court .....	12
J. H. Winspear, expenses and services to Sioux City seeing to the printing of the court house bonds .....	100

The Board next met October 7, 1872. At this meeting Horton Township, as originally organized, was divided into three civil townships, as follows: Township 100, Range 42, to be known as Fenton Township. Township 100, Range 41, to be called Wilson Township. Township 100, Range 40, to be called Horton Township. Elections for township officers for these townships were ordered for the general election in 1872, to be held in Wilson Township at the house of James



Miller; for Fenton Township, at the house of John H. Hart; for Horton Township, at the house of L. G. Ireland. It was voted to allow Crandall & Hall \$900, part payment on bridge contract. Bills were allowed amounting to \$1,025.40.

The Board next met October 21, 1872. At this meeting a resolution was passed authorizing Henry Phringston to build privy, coal house, steps to court house, one vane and flag staff and to fit up room under the stairway, for which he was to receive in addition to court house contract, \$1,053. Bills were then allowed amounting to \$310.25.

The next meeting of the Board was held November 11, 1872. At this meeting the votes cast at the general election held this month were canvassed. As there is, in another part of this history, the names of all officers of the county since its organization, the officers declared elected at this session will be found there. It was also voted to issue bonds for \$1091.65 to J. M. Grant to satisfy a judgment obtained by Grant against the county; also voted to issue bonds to the amount of \$1,339.06 to Condion & Harris to satisfy a judgment they had obtained in the circuit court against Osceola County.

The next meeting of the Board was on November 13, 1872. At this meeting Henry Phringston was instructed to get the court house furniture from the railroad depot and to set it up, and for these services was allowed \$250. Delialy Stiles, County Superintendent, was allowed \$200 as salary from January 1, 1872 to January 1, 1873.

The following resolution was passed:

*Resolved*, That the Auditor is hereby instructed to fit up and furnish the two north rooms on the first floor and a jury room on the second floor of the court house for the use and benefit of the poor of the county and to furnish provisions and everything he deems necessary for the comfort of the same.

There was also allowed bills of various kinds and amounts, aggregating \$2,403.21, among which were:

Henry Phringston, drawing plans and specifications of court house .....	\$60 00
J. H. Winspear, inspecting court house .....	10 00
Furniture for court house .....	1,102 00

The Board next met November 27, at which no business was transacted, except a small amount for burning around bridge for \$4.20.

The next meeting of the Board was held December 16, 1872, at which were present the members, as at other meetings, being J. H. Winspear, H. R. Fenton and George Spauld-



ing. The Auditor was instructed to issue a warrant of \$106.03 to pay the premium for \$2,000 insurance on the court house and furniture, in the Home Insurance Company of Columbus, Ohio; warrant issued to W. H. Turner.

H. R. Fenton was instructed to procure safe for Treasurer, and the Auditor ordered to issue warrant to pay what was necessary for it. Board adjourned to Dec. 17.

Board met Dec. 17, 1872, as per adjournment. Mr. Spaulding was not present. It was ordered by the Board that the Auditor employ an attorney in Clayton County to get proof of the residence of Thomas Carroll. It was voted to issue bonds to William C. Frye in the amount of \$6,300 to satisfy a judgment against the County in the United States Court, and also a warrant of \$38.80 to said Frye, which would complete payment of judgment. A new survey of swamp lands was then ordered, and in connection therewith the following resolution was passed:

*"Resolved*, That Frank Stiles is hereby allowed the sum of five hundred dollars for the use of his present survey book of swamp land selections for Osceola County as a guide to the County in conducting the new survey of swamp lands of said County this day ordered by the Board of Supervisors, and that the Auditor is instructed to issue a warrant to said Frank Stiles of that amount, upon his delivering said survey book to the Auditor at his office."

Board then adjourned to Dec. 18, at which meeting nothing was done except allowances for bills of various amounts and kinds, aggregating \$1,231.76.

Board met again Dec. 30, 1872, members all present. The first thing done was to instruct the Auditor to insure court house and furniture in the Hawkeye Insurance Company to the amount of \$2,000, and issue warrant sufficient to pay premium. It was then voted to accept the proposition of L. A. Barker to print 5,000 pamphlets on Osceola County for distribution, and the Auditor was instructed to issue warrant for \$800 to pay the same.

The Board next met December 31. The official bonds were approved and the Auditor's salary was increased; as also that of the Recorder. Polk & Hubbell, of Des Moines, were allowed \$100 for service in the case of Wm. O. Frye vs. Osceola County. Bills were then allowed amounting to \$1,269.94. Among the bills allowed were:





G. W. LISTER.



Frank Stiles, balance on bridge grading, etc.....	\$475 00
J. H. Winspear, railroad fare to defend in Frye vs. County.....	50 00
J. H. Winspear, expenses in same case.....	40 00
C. W. Blackmer, counsel and advice.....	250 00

This last meeting of the Board closed the first year's administration of the County Supervisors. As near as can be ascertained from a thorough search of the records and the minutes of the Board, there was issued in county warrants during the year 1872, \$29,000. There was also issued bonds in the sum of \$17,801.41. These bonds were based upon judgments rendered in different courts, and aside from the court house bonds, the judgments are based upon actions brought upon county warrants which are a part of the \$29,000 of warrants issued. The exact indebtedness at the close of 1872 cannot be accurately determined, but to approximate it would stand as follows;

Bonds drawing 10 per cent. interest.....	\$17,801 31
County warrants.....	18,000 00

Continuing as to the Board of Supervisors, there was to be one member of the Board elected at the general election in 1872. At this election D. L. Riley and L. F. Diefendorf were candidates for the office, and the votes were a little mixed on the Riley ballots. They read D. I. Riley, D. L. Riley and L. F. Riley, so that the Board declared the result as follows:

	VOTES
L. F. Diefendorf.....	78
D. I. Riley.....	75
D. L. Riley.....	55
L. F. Riley.....	1

And officially declared that Diefendorf was elected.

It cannot be found, however, from the records that Diefendorf ever qualified or acted with the Board. We know nothing of the man, but he undoubtedly conscientiously felt that he was not entitled to the office, and did not have the audacity nor the desire to force himself upon the people even with the Board's decision that he was "duly elected." Something had to be done, however, to straighten the record and overturn this official decision made by the Board, so that the proper proceedings were instituted by D. L. Riley, as contestant, against Diefendorf, incumbent. The tribunal then to decide contested elections consisted of the Circuit Judge and two associate judges, one chosen by the contestant and the



other by incumbent. Riley chose I. N. Gardner, and as the incumbent failed to make a choice, the Clerk of the Court, then J. F. Glover, made choice of A. M. Culver. The court so constituted met at Sibley January 2, 1873, and that day and the day following was taken up in preliminary matters, and making up issues, also receiving evidence, and on these days, and including the next day, the case was fully presented to the court. On January 4, 1873, the court decided that the contestant, D. L. Riley, was entitled to the office, and he then and there appeared and took the oath of office and thereby became a member of the Board, leaving Diefendorf to pay the costs.

#### BOARD PROCEEDINGS OF 1873.

The first meeting of the Board in 1873 was held January 6, and was called to order by the County Auditor, and there were present H. R. Fenton and D. L. Riley. Riley elected Fenton chairman, and the Board proceeded to approve official bonds and adjourned until afternoon.

At the afternoon session the three members were present, which added George Spaulding, and these three constituted the Board. Some business was transacted with reference to roads, and the Board adjourned until the next day, January 7.

January 7, 1873, the three members were present. J. H. Douglass, Sheriff, notified the Board that he had appointed C. M. Bailey as deputy; J. F. Glover, Clerk of Court, gave notice that he had appointed as deputy, F. M. Robinson, and F. M. Robinson, County Auditor, notified the Board that his deputy was C. M. Brooks. The Board then fixed the salaries of office, which were to be paid at the end of each month, as follows:

Treasurer .....	\$ 50 00
Auditor .....	100 00
Clerk of Court .....	40 00
Recorder .....	40 00
Sheriff .....	16 65
County Superintendent of Schools .....	15 00

The Board then allowed various bills amounting in all to \$331.57, and adjourned to January 20.

January 20, 1873, the Board met pursuant to adjournment, and there were present Fenton and Spaulding, Riley being absent. Nothing was done particularly at this session. John Beaumont was allowed \$58.35 for services as recorder the year before, up to the time McCausland gobbled the books, and other bills were allowed amounting to \$541.60. The Board then adjourned to meet February 20 next.



February 20, meeting of the Board was held as per adjournment, with Fenton and Spaulding present, Riley absent. It was voted that Chairman Fenton employ any counsel to appear for the county any time he may deem it necessary. The following astounding resolution was then passed:

*“Resolved*, That the proposition of C. W. Blackmer be accepted, and the Auditor of this county is hereby directed to issue to the said C. W. Blackmer the sum of twenty thousand dollars, in warrants of such dimensions as the said C. W. Blackmer may determine. It is understood and agreed that, out of the sum so issued to the said C. W. Blackmer, he is to compensate the assistant counsel which he has agreed to employ, and,

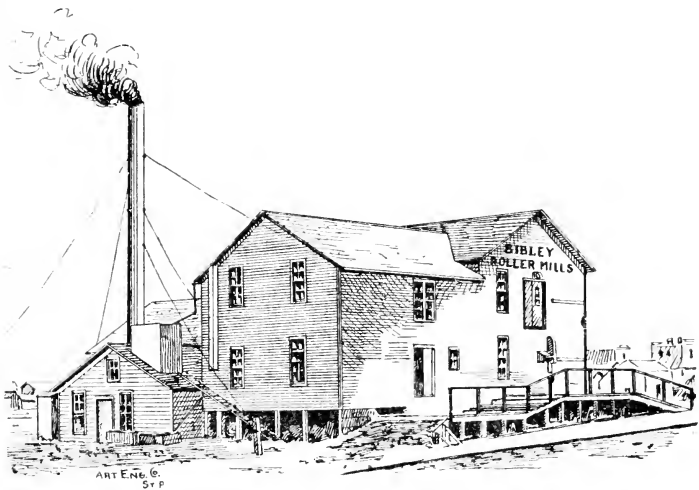
*“Whereas*, The said C. W. Blackmer has further proposed to this Board that he will accept for the remainder of his compensation a contingent fee of 20 per cent of the amount recovered from the railroad company and Woodbury County, therefore, be it further

*“Resolved*, That said County of Osceola will pay the said C. W. Blackmer and his assistant counsel the said contingent fee of 20 per cent, provided the same shall amount to more than the said sum of twenty thousand dollars; it being understood that the said sum of twenty thousand dollars is to be deducted from said sum of 20 per cent, and that the said C. W. Blackmer and his assistant counsel are only to receive the balance, if any remaining, as a contingent fee.”

The Board then appointed L. F. Diefendorf as their clerk *pro tem.*, by reason of F. M. Robinson refusing to act as clerk in issuing warrants to Blackmer. It seems that at this time there was considerable excitement in the county over this \$20,000 to Blackmer, which caused the Board in the afternoon of this same session to rescind the resolution, and they passed another, employing Winspear and Blackmer to recover back taxes from the railroad company, allowing the attorneys a retainer of \$500 and 25 per cent on the amount recovered. It was also voted that C. M. Brooks should hang blinds upon the court house windows at \$4.50 each, and the Auditor was authorized to issue a warrant of \$400 to said Brooks, immediately, as part payment, balance to be paid when work was completed. The Treasurer's salary was then increased to \$100 per month, and a warrant drawn for \$50 for the extra compensation in January.

February 21, 1873, the Board again met with Fenton and Spaulding present, and Riley absent. The Board ordered a





SIBLEY ROLLER MILLS.



warrant drawn of \$400, part pay for pamphlets, and allowed bills aggregating \$2,611.33. Among the bills were the following:

H. R. Fenton, expenses to Sioux City, four days time	\$ 45 00
Blackmer, attorney's fees .....	20 00
McCaffery & Harmon, attorney's fees .....	35 00
C. W. Blackmer, balance of bill presented to Board	
December 31, 1872 .....	250 00
McCaffery & Harmon, attorney's fees .....	50 00

The next meeting of the Board was held March 11, 1873, at which time there was present Fenton and Riley. Nothing important was done at this session except to pass a resolution dismissing all attorneys and inviting proposals from Sibley lawyers to do the county business. Bills were allowed amounting in all to \$565.94.

Board met again April 7, 1873. The following resolution was adopted:

*"Resolved*, That J. H. Winspear and S. W. Harmon are employed to appear for the county in all suits now pending in the District Court and defend same."

Fenton and Spaulding voting for, and Riley against. Board adjourned to meet April 14.

April 14th, as per adjournment, the record shows that only Riley was present and he adjourned over until April 21.

The record here shows a change in the Board, and that O. Dunton and B. F. Mundorf were appointed to fill the vacancy caused by removal. The first meeting of this newly constituted Board was held April 21, 1873, at which time there were present D. L. Riley, O. Dunton and B. F. Mundorf. D. L. Riley was elected chairman. The Board transacted the usual business pertaining to county legislation. Bills were allowed, a large part pertaining to court expenses, in all amounting to \$1,071.46.

The Board of 1874 consisted of D. L. Riley, O. Dunton and F. E. Perry. This Board placed the affairs of the county upon a thorough business basis, and established a system of economy which succeeding Boards have not departed from. The Board of Supervisors from that time up to the present have all been men who had the interest of the county at heart. The debt of the county has been reduced, warrants are at par, and the administration of the county affairs is satisfactory to the people. The different persons who have constituted the Board of different years will be found under the list of county officers.



## CHAPTER XVI.

The Sibley *Gazette* in its starting out, although published by Ren Barker, was made to sparkle with the wit, the genius and all kinds of advice and suggestions, from Nellie Granger. She wrote many articles of well constructed sentences, under the name of Nellie F. Granger, and the hard and pointed hits she distributed around in the community are remembered by tradition, while the files of the paper have been laid on the shelf for years, and nearly obliterated by carelessness and misuse. Barker himself seemed to struggle against some criticisms, and was foolish enough to notice them, for we see by his early issues occasional items, like the following:

"May be some people know our biz better than we do. If so they are invited to take charge of the machine."

The January 24, 1873, number of the *Gazette*, announces that the Rock Rapids *Review* has been started by O. A. Cheney, and that the Sheldon *Mail* has started out on the sea of journalism. It also says that the January blizzard has done somebody good, as the homesteaders have found work shoveling snow, which will enable them to live through the winter. It also expresses fears that E. R. Hazen was lost in the storm, in the following item:

"Nothing has been heard of Elmore R. Hazen, who worked in Sibley last fall, at carpentering, and who owned a claim in this county, and who started, as we have learned, on the morning of the great storm, to go to Ocheyedan river for wood. It is feared that he has perished."

Hazen, however, is still in the land of the living. In January of 1873, the following mail routes were established:

From Cherokee to Sibley, 48 miles and back, once a week.

From LeMars, by Orange City, Ocheyedan and Sibley, to Worthington, Minn., 74 miles and back, once a week.

From Spirit Lake, by Melrose, Silver Lake, Sibley and Doon, to Beloit, 92 miles and back, once a week.

From Sibley to Beloit, 48 miles and back, once a week.

The reader well knows how the progress of the county has long since abolished these routes for more speedy transportation. The cold snap of January 28, sent the thermome-



ter down to 32 degrees below zero, and at Sioux City 23 below. That kept the homesteaders of Osceola County busy twisting hay. The January 7, 1873, blizzard so blocked the Sioux City and St. Paul road, now the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha, that the train was not got through until Feb. 14. In February 12, 1873, the following announcement through the columns of the local press was made to the people:

“**REPUDIATION.**—All the citizens that are in favor of repudiating the indebtedness of Osceola County, for the year 1872, about \$20,000, are requested to meet at the court house on Saturday, March 1st. McCaffery & Harmon will guarantee a clear case. Let there be a full attendance.”

This movement it seems died a “borning,” as the following minutes of the meeting will show:

#### REPUDIATION MEETING.

Proceedings of mass meeting called to consider the propriety of repudiating the county indebtedness, above that allowed by law, held at the court house in Sibley, March 1st, 1873.

At half past one o'clock the meeting was called to order by J. McCaffery, of the firm of McCaffery & Harmon. On motion W. A. Spencer was elected chairman and M. J. Campbell secretary.

At the request of J. McCaffery, J. F. Glover made a statement of the amount of warrants issued in excess of the amount allowed by law in 1872 and 1873, as follows: In 1872, \$14,696.24, and in 1873, up to March 1st, \$432.19.

J. McCaffery opened the meeting by a speech in favor of repudiation, and was replied to by J. T. Barclay, H. Jordan, et al.

The following resolution was passed:

“*Resolved*, That a committee of one be appointed to wait upon the Board of Supervisors at their next session, to request them not to issue any warrants for attorney's fees, in any case whatever except in criminal cases or to an attorney employed by the year.”

Motion was made by D. M. Shuck that the vote of the house be taken on the question of repudiation; and the vote was unanimous against repudiation.

On motion of J. F. Glover, J. McCaffery was allowed ten minutes more in which to present his case more fully.

The following resolution was then adopted, viz:





J. L. McLAURY.



*“Resolved,* That a committee of three be elected by the house to confer with the attorneys of this place in reference to making a contract with one or more of them to become the people’s attorney for the year, and that we authorize them to make such contract, in case it can be done upon satisfactory terms. O. Dunton, D. M. Shuck and D. F. Curtis were then elected as said committee.

On motion of J. F. Glover, J. McCaffery received a vote of thanks for calling this meeting.

W. A. SPENCER, *Chairman.*

M. J. CAMPBELL, *Secretary.*

In July, 1873, the postoffice was established at the house of L. G. Ireland, with Mr. Ireland as postmaster. This was long before Ochevedan was thought of. At the same time a postoffice was established at Silver Lake, Dickinson County, at the house of C. B. Knox, with Mr. Knox as postmaster. These were on the Sibley and Spirit Lake route, with Orren Jones as mail carrier.





D. D. McCALLUM.

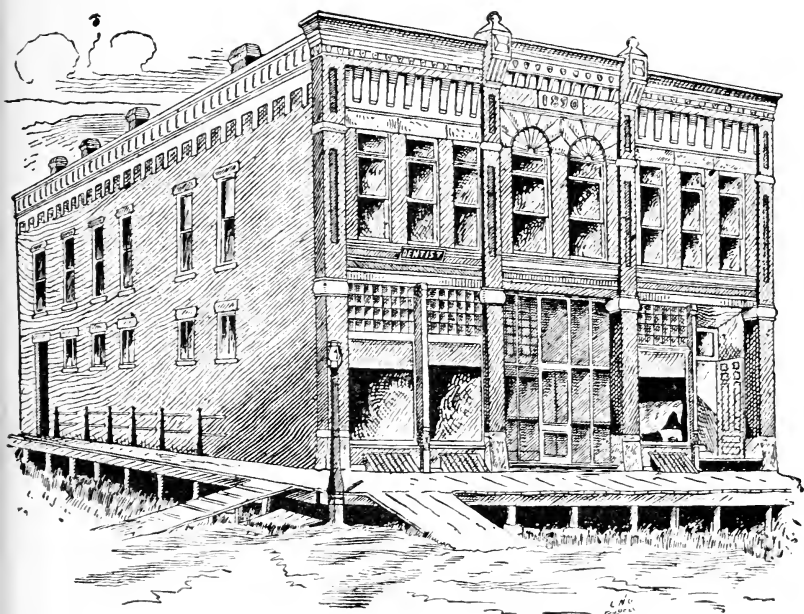


## CHAPTER XVII.

Horton township's first settler came in 1871. In 1870 Seymour Coyour, then under age, came to Minnesota with his father, and lived just over the line of Horton in Minnesota. When Seymour came of age he made contest of the northwest quarter of Section 24 and succeeded in obtaining the land, which he filed upon and still lives on the same place. The first settler in Horton Township was L. G. Ireland, who is elsewhere mentioned as coming from Clayton County, Iowa, with A. B. Elmore and E. N. Moore. Mr. Elmore was also one of Horton's first settlers, on Section 34, but he did not long remain in Horton, as he soon after took a claim in Ochevedan. Mr. Ireland took the southeast quarter of Section 34, and turned the first furrow of the soil of that township. He was also a lawyer, but he was not a distinguished member of that profession and did not claim to be. He was politically ambitious, and was once a candidate for the Legislature on an independent ticket. He has since died. His claim is now owned by Dick Wassmann. So far as we can learn there were no other settlers in Horton Township in 1871 except Mr. Elmore and Mr. Ireland.

In 1872 there were many who settled in this township. N. W. Emery, who is elsewhere mentioned, came that year. W. R. Boling, mentioned also in another chapter, came in 1872. Mr. Boling had two brothers, J. T. and E. W., who lived in Horton, but have since moved away. E. W. moved from the township into Ochevedan and resided there until about two years ago, when he moved to Powshiek County, Iowa, where he now resides. J. T. was justice in that township several years, and is now an evangelist and lives in Illinois. In 1872 also C. M. Richards, W. Bisby, W. W. Herron, Henry and Dan Gibson and Jacob Brooks settled in Horton, coming from Butler County, Iowa. Richards left about eight years ago, and now resides in Pipestone, Minnesota. Bisby went to Butler County. Herron is in California. Mr. Brooks is now a merchant at Sibley. Also H. B. Clemens came that year to the township, and a few years ago went to Washington. During the residence of these Butler County people Richards was one of the township trustees, and in the fall went to Butler





BROWN & CHAMBERS BLOCK, SIBLEY.



County and remained during the winter. While thus away on a visit, the other trustees declared his office vacant, and made an appointment. Richards returned in the spring and was present at the annual meeting, when he was informed that during his absence the office had dropped from under him, and that another had been appointed to fill the vacant place. Richards was not of that kind to surrender so easily—using a common expression—he was not built that way. He first gave vent to his feelings, spoke his mind, and this, with the talking back, culminated in an open fight, in which the other fellows got the worst of it, and the affair finally drifted into court. Richards, however, held the office until the expiration of his term. Samuel Collett settled in Horton in 1872; he proved up on his claim and moved to Montana, where he now resides. Jacob Brooks owned the original quarter upon which he settled until recently, and it is now occupied by Mr. H. Keith.

Since the earlier settlements in Horton Township quite a number of German families have moved into the township, and these Germans are considered as some of its most substantial and industrious citizens. In 1882 Henry Wassmann with his son Dick, Charles Griep and several others of their neighbors left Indiana and bought tickets to Chicago, from there to Glendive, Montana. They were simply going west as men do go, without knowing exactly where until they looked it over. They got to Bismarck in North Dakota, when the elder Wassmann thought that any more west was too much for him, and told the rest of the party they could go on, but as for himself he should look over a part of Iowa. This caused the three parties above named to return to St. Paul, where they bought tickets to Sheldon. They drove from Sheldon to Bigelow, Minn., and not desiring to settle there, were returning, when, by parties at Sibley, they were induced to settle in Osceola County, which they did. The Wassmann's bought several pieces of land, among which was the L. G. Ireland place on Section 34, where Dick Wassmann now lives. His correct name is Diedrich Wassmann, but is commonly called Dick. There is no better farm in the county than Dick Wassmann's, and no better place for a home than right there among the large variety of forest trees, set out by the lamented Ireland and later by Dick himself. About one hundred different kinds of trees stand there in the gorgeous grandeur of their green foliage and as the leaves rustle in the breeze, they seem to whisper a voice of contentment, of thrift





W. F. ALDRED.



and independence which mark the surroundings, and are expressed in the hospitality of the occupant, for Dick Wassmann is no more diminutive in heart and soul than he is in statue. There are kinds of trees on this farm that probably couldn't be found anywhere else in the state, and fruit trees in abundance. Henry Wassmann returned to Indiana where he still resides. Charles Griep bought the northeast quarter Section 27 where he still lives and is a successful farmer.

The coming of these parties here was the means of other Germans following them and buying land in Horton.

Henry Pinkenburg took a part of Section 25, also did Conrad Hattendorf; Henry Rusche the northwest quarter of Section 14; Fred Glade a part of Section 23; William Lick a part of Section 21, and Conrad Oldendorf a part of Sections 23 and 25. W. H. Noehren bought the northeast quarter of Section 22, and still lives there. Mr. Noehren has been prominent in township matters, and at present is a member of the Board of County Commissioners. This township has a good class of people, and among its other substantial farmers not otherwise mentioned are the three Piscators, father and two sons, who we believe are on Section 8, Gustav Johnson on Section 10, William Rehborg on Section 11, and August Polinski on Section 13.

On Section 14, besides Henry Rusche, lives August Bremer on the northeast quarter, and John Estabrook on the southwest quarter. Conrad Bremer is on Section 15, William Filk and John Farragher on Section 18, and Peter Wickland on Section 19. On Section 20 is Vaclave Sixty, also John Maske, Joseph Rhomatko and Joseph Cload. On Section 22 we find Chris Bremer and Henry Redeker.

John Robertson has the southeast quarter of Section 24, and John Gielow and William Grave are on Section 26. On Section 27, besides Mr. Griep, are Charles Schmidt and William Sehr. Mr. John Thompson lives on a quarter of Section 28, and Mr. I. B. Titus owns a part of Section 30, and is the only resident on that section. Frank Engle is on Section 31, and William Maske on Section 32. Chris Wassman is on Section 35 and has recently built there a house and barn. On Section 36 William Carney has a quarter, also A. V. Randall, and on the same section Mr. Elmore has a tree claim. Mr. Randall formerly lived on his quarter, but is now in business in Ocheyedon. J. T. Boling's place is now owned by Herman Bauermeister, who lives in Worthington, Minn.





GEO. RUPNER.



## GRASSHOPPER PERIOD.

The history of the great world itself recognizes certain distinct periods which have marked the ages with their different characteristics. Osceola County is but a small part of this mighty universe, but its brief history has it periods which are readily recognized by those of its citizens whose residence here reaches back even for only a decade.

The first was its filing period, when settlers made record in the government office, that they claimed certain pieces of land for residence and occupation. The next was the grasshopper period, and the last a period of general contentment and prosperity. This part of the history is devoted to the grasshopper period, and following this, the relief campaign which followed in the wake of destroyed crops and destitution. The writer himself went through this "reign of terror" and knows all about it by personal contact and experience. The grasshopper itself was a curiosity; we call it grasshopper because then among settlers it bore no other name, while the books designate the pest as the "Rocky Mountain locust."

The natural home of these insects was on the barren table lands along the eastern base of the Rocky Mountains. There they deposited their eggs every year. In Wyoming Territory, Western Nebraska, Texas, the Indian Territory and New Mexico, the broods were annually hatched. In their native haunts they attained an enormous size, many specimens being three inches in length. Scientific men, who have studied the habits of the grasshoppers state that each succeeding brood degenerates in size, and after three or four generations the weaker are obliged to swarm and seek other quarters, being driven out by the larger and stronger insects.

These exiles rise and go with the wind, keeping the direction in which they first start, stopping in their flight for subsistence and depositing eggs in a prolific manner during the incubating season, which lasted from the middle of June to the middle of September.

This region had been visited by grasshoppers before, but did not excite a great deal of attention for the reasons that the county was sparsely settled and but a small area of land under cultivation, and they came so late in the season that small grains were generally out of their reach, but extreme Northwestern Iowa then was not settled, so that their ravages were further east. Their first appearance at Sibley was on the 5th day of June, 1873. The first seen of them was a huge black





Q. E. CLEVELAND.



cloud, which was none other than a swarm of grasshoppers, and which sent out a roaring sound that terrified the ears. Where there was any grain to cut even before its maturity, the settlers went at it to save what they could, but the grasshoppers were not bad reapers themselves, and the modern and latest improved of agricultural machinery cut but little figure in the race, when that swarm of grasshoppers came down and went to work. They were possessed of great vitality and enormous appetites; their first appearance was alarming and their devastations were appalling. It introduced to the settlers a serious problem; they were new to the country, or rather the country was new to them, and this strange visitation raised the question as to whether or not this grasshopper business was a part of the country itself, and that the pests would remain off and on indefinitely in the future. This thought, aside from their coming and the destruction they did in 1873, caused much concern and consternation.

These grasshoppers had crossed the Missouri River and commenced foraging in the bordering Iowa counties, and devoured the crops as they went to a greater or less extent. In this season of 1873 some of the Osceola County settlers lost what crop they had by the grasshoppers, and others their crops were partially destroyed. Some saved a small garden patch by means of "shooing" them off and keeping the patch free from them, although the task was tedious and difficult.

The early part of the season was extremely dry. No rain fell from the first of May to the middle of June. Grain did not grow much, but the grasshoppers did, and before the drouth ended, the crops were eaten and parched beyond all hope of recovery. About the middle of June, however, considerable rain fell, and outside of the before mentioned counties the prospect was generally favorable for good crops. The young grasshoppers commenced to get wings about the middle of June, and in a few days they began to rise and fly. The prospect seemed good for a speedy riddance from the pests. The perverse insects were waiting for an easterly wind, but the wind blew from the southwest for nearly three weeks, so they staid and visited, and eat and continued their ravages.

Early in the spring of 1874 the eggs deposited the season before, commenced hatching, and the soil looked literally alive with insignificant looking insects, a quarter of an inch in length but of enormous eating qualities. As if by instinct, their first movements were toward the fields where tender shoots of grain were making their modest appearance. Sometimes the





CHRIS W. HOLLE.



first intimation a farmer would have of what was going on would be from noticing along one side of his grain-field a narrow strip where the grain was missing. At first, perhaps, he would attribute it to a "balk" in sowing, but each day it grew wider and a closer examination would reveal the presence of young grasshoppers.

The settlers of Osceola County in the spring of 1874 did their sowing and planting under a feeling of apprehension. They were here and the work must go, even with the grasshopper difficulty staring them in the face. Many got out of the country, owing to the grasshoppers of 1873, but they who remained had nought else to do but to work on. The grasshopper ravages were the worst in 1874 and 1875, and from then on the pests degenerated in size and did less mischief each year, but were still here until 1879 when they did but little damage and in 1880 the county felt itself well rid of them.

All sorts of suggestions and devices were made with reference to the destruction of grasshoppers during these years, and it was much of a topic of discussion how to get rid of them. Judge Oliver, in a communication to the *Sioux City Journal*, said: "Farmers should not be discouraged. Crops, especially wheat and corn, should be put in as early as possible, so as to get a start while the hoppers are small. Late potatoes and beans may be planted as late as is safe, so as not to get up until the hoppers are gone. Young trees and shrubs may be protected by a sack of thin cloth drawn over them and tied at the bottom. I desire to impress on farmers, where the eggs are unhatched, the absolute necessity of early seeding. One week's difference in the time of seeding may make all the differences between a good crop and a failure."

The *Sioux City Journal* said: "The grasshopper deposits its eggs at the roots of the grass in the latter part of summer or early autumn. The eggs hatch out early in spring, and during the months of April, May and June, according as the season is early or late; they are wingless, their sole power of locomotion being the hop.

"To destroy them, all that is needed is for each county, town or district to organize itself into a fire brigade, throughout the district where their eggs are known to be deposited.

"This fire brigade shall see that the prairies are not burned over in the fall, and thus they will have the grass for the next spring and to be employed upon the pests while they are yet hoppers, the means of sure death. To apply it, let all



agree upon a certain day, say in April or May or at any time when they are sure all the hoppers are hatched and none are yet winged. All being ready let every person, man, woman and boy, turn out with torches and simultaneously fire the whole prairie, and the work, if well done, will destroy the whole crop of grasshoppers for that year, and none will be left to "soar their gossamer wings" or lay eggs for another year."

The *Gazette* of July 10, 1874, had the following:

"Grasshoppers are being successfully chased by many people in this county. There is usually a slight wind blowing, and people take ropes one or two hundred feet in length, and, stretching them out, walk or ride across the fields, the trailing rope disturbing the grain, which causes the 'hoppers' to fly up, and then the friendly wind carries them off the field.

"Mr. Dunton, who has been saving his wheat by the use of ropes, finds it useful to tie rags, newspapers, etc., to them on account of the greater rustle the rope makes as it trails over the grain with these attached."

As the grasshopper years went on, the people themselves, scientific men and even the halls of legislation were discussing the important question of how to drive the "hoppers" from the country. Many and varied were the experiments. They tried smudging, burning the prairie, burning tar, digging ditches and every conceivable thing that the ingenuity of man could suggest, even to a huge trap in which to snare and catch them. Minnesota offered a bounty of a certain amount per bushel for them, and actually paid out quite a sum, which helped the people along, but the idea of delivering a crop of grasshoppers for a consideration, strikes us now as bordering on the ridiculous. These pests lasted about seven years, and the latter years of the seven they were much less troublesome than the first. The grasshopper business, too, had its humorous side, and there was much wit grew out of it, and the eastern papers made much fun of us, and not only that, but seriously charged us with being a country liable to such things, and hence unfit to live in. The county papers around in Northwestern Iowa would each claim that the other county was the worst. The *Gazette* said in one issue they were mostly in Dickinson County, and the *Beacon* gives this assertion the lie and says they are on the border of Osceola "peeking" over. Some agricultural house printed a card bearing the picture of a grasshopper sitting on a board fence gazing at a wheat field, and underneath the words: "In this s(wheat) by



and bye." The poet was also at work, and the following one of the numerous productions:

CHARGE OF THE GRASSHOPPER BRIGADE.

Half a league, half a league,  
Half a league onward,  
Right from the West they came,  
More than six hundred—  
Out from forest and glade;  
"Charge for the corn!" they said  
Then for the fields they made—  
More than six hundred.

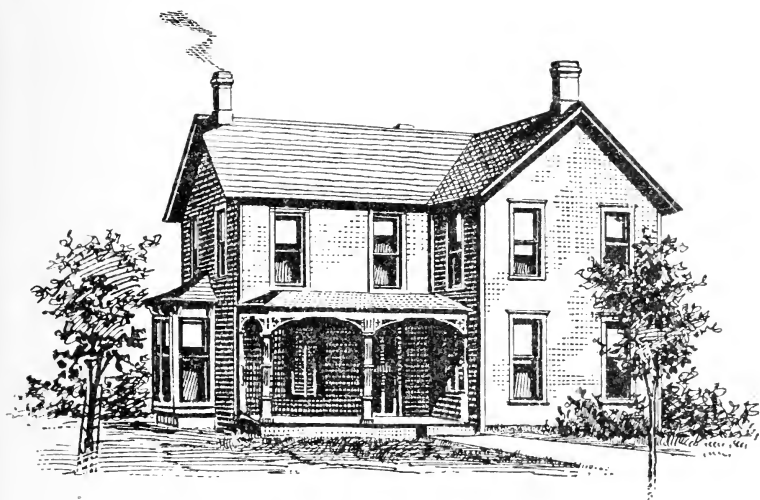
Fields to the right of them,  
Fields to the left of them;  
Fields in front of them,  
Pillaged and plundered;  
Naught could their numbers tell,  
Down on the crop they fell,  
Nor left a stalk or shell—  
More than six hundred.

Flashed all their red legs bare,  
Flashed as they turned in air,  
Robbing the farmers there,  
Charging an orchard, while  
All the world wondered!  
Plunged in the smudge and smoke,  
Right through the corn they broke,  
Hopper and locust;  
Peeled they the stalks all bare,  
Shattered and sundered;  
Then they went onward—but  
More than six hundred.

Since these grasshopper days the old settlers can see what they missed by the following, recently published:

"Some very important uses for grasshoppers have recently been discovered. There would seem to be no reason why they should not be applied to commercial advantage in the event of a plague this year. Not long ago four quarts of liquid, expressed from half a bushel of "hoppers" under a cheese press, were shipped in a glass from Spirit Lake, Iowa, to Professor William K. Kedzie, of the Kansas State Agricultural College. He made a complete analysis, and by distilling the juice with sulphuric acid obtained a colorless, limpid solution of formic acid. Now, this acid is very valuable, having a present market quotation of sixty cents an ounce. It is not only employed in medicine to a considerable extent, but it is also utilized in the laboratory to reduce salts of the noble metals, gold, silver and platinum. Hitherto it has always been extracted from red ants, but the possibility of getting it in large quantities from grasshoppers suggests a





RESIDENCE OF ASA BOWERSOCK, OCHEYEDAN.



method for employing these insects to an unlooked-for advantage. An interesting feature of the analysis was the discovery of a certain amount of copper in the liquid. This metal has been found in the blood of other animals, particularly in that of the horseshoe crab, which always furnishes a trace of it. It is not suggested, however, that grasshoppers would assay a sufficient amount of copper to the ton to make it worth while to smelt them.

"A while ago, Professor C. V. Ripley, United States entomologist, sent a bushel of grasshoppers, freshly caught and scalded, to Mr. Bonnet, a St. Louis caterer. The latter made a soup of them, which was pronounced perfectly delicious by many people who were afforded an opportunity of tasting it. It closely resembled bisque. Mr. Bonnet declared that he would gladly have it on his bill of fare every day if he could only obtain the insects. His method of preparing the dish, as described by himself, was to boil the hoppers over a brisk fire, seasoning them with salt, pepper and grated nutmeg, and occasionally stirring them. When sufficiently done they were pounded in a mortar with bread fried brown; then they were replaced in the saucepan and thickened to a broth, which was passed through a strainer before being served. Professor Riley treated some friends of his on one occasion to curry of grasshoppers and grasshopper croquettes without informing them as to the nature of the banquet, but an unlucky hind leg, discovered in one of the croquettes, revealed the secret."

#### RELIEF.

In January, 1873, there was organized at Sibley what they called the "Citizen Farmers' Club." This was before the "Grange" swept over the state, but both of these had the usual conditions of existence. They had their birth, maturity and death. The Citizen Farmers' Club was organized December 7, 1872, and its object as declared by a resolution was for the purpose of mutual protection, assistance, encouragement, instruction and social intercourse generally. Meetings were held every Friday afternoon at one o'clock, and no doubt many an ambitious orator, after the fame of Cicero, electrified and delighted the audience. This organization had quite a number of meetings, but soon as the Grange was introduced into Osceola County, the Citizen Farmers' Club began to decline and last, in the language of the illustrious Cleveland, went into "Innocuous desuetude." Following these and really as a



basis upon which to secure relief for the people by reason of grasshoppers, the following announcement appeared in a September number of the *Gazette*:

“HOMESTEADER’S PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION.—There will be a meeting of the citizens of Osceola County, on the fair grounds, near Sibley, at 1 o’clock p. m., September 25, 1873, for the purpose of organizing a Homesteader’s Protective Association, the object and aim of which, will be to look after the interests of all true homesteaders. It is hoped that there will be a general turnout, that the organization may be made permanent as long as it may be needed in this locality. In union there is strength. MANY HOMESTEADERS.”

The meeting was held according to announcement and the following is a report of it:

#### HOMESTEADER’S PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION.

A large number of homesteaders were present at the meeting held at the Court house on Saturday last. D. L. Riley was chosen temporary Chairman, and F. M. Robinson temporary Secretary. Appropriate and earnest remarks were made by D. L. Riley and H. Jordan. A committee on resolutions, consisting of J. H. Douglass, H. Jordan and A. W. Clark, was appointed. Remarks were made by J. L. Robinson, W. Rea, A. Halstead and Allen Garvin.

The committee on resolutions reported a preamble and resolutions which were adopted. We have not space for them, but the gist of them is as follows: After setting forth as reasons for the forming of an association, the fact that many homesteaders, owing to the failure of their crops, would be compelled to leave the county for a time to obtain work in order to provide for their families; also that fears were entertained of their claims being unjustly contested, thereby causing them expense which they were unable to bear; “therefore, be it

“*Resolved*, That we, the undersigned, band ourselves together for the purpose of protecting ourselves in our rights.”

A series of resolutions, fifteen in number, establishing the number of officers as one President, one Vice President from each range of townships, a Secretary and Treasurer; appointing a regular meeting on the first Saturday of each month, at 1 o’clock p. m., in the court house; establishing certain committees, defining their duties; giving the terms of admission to the association; and making it necessary for the Treasurer to give a bond, etc., were adopted. The officers elected were as follows:



President, D. L. Riley; First Vice President, C. W. Wyllys; Second Vice President, C. M. Bailey; Third Vice President, A. Garvin; Secretary, H. Jordan; Treasurer, J. L. Robinson.

Any resident of Osceola County may become a member of this organization by subscribing his or her name to the preamble, resolutions and by-laws, and paying the sum of fifty cents.

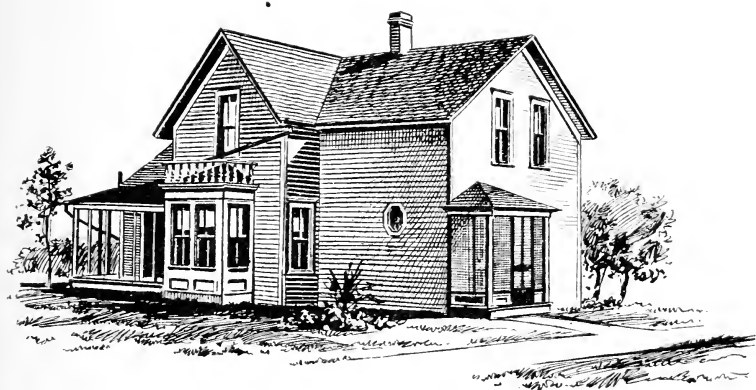
Any one wishing to examine the by-laws, etc., or to become a member of the association, can do so by calling at Jordan's office.

This meeting was the foundation of a call for relief. Grasshoppers had devastated the county, and what crops there were had generally been ruined by this pest. On the start, the people were divided on this relief question, as many were opposed to it on the ground that it would give the county a bad reputation and retard settlement. Several men in Sibley offered to carry such families as were extremely needy, through the winter and furnish them the necessaries of life. Others, of those opposed to relief, thought the county had better make provision for its own, but the relief party was numerically the stronger, and finally its opposers had to fall into line. It is often the case when some sudden catastrophe has fallen upon a community, like the Chicago fire or the Johnstown flood, that the community itself is unable to take care of its unfortunates. Where hundreds of families are left homeless and thrown upon the charity of others, then, indeed, it is well to call upon other parts of the country for contributions. But there is always more or less fraud connected with it, and it is apt to be the case that the modest people, but more deserving, get but little of the relief goods, while the "cheeky" ones get the most. It was a question then, and is now, whether that relief movement for Northwestern Iowa was advisable, but the people had it, organizations were effected to handle it, the state was solicited particularly, and the country generally, for supplies. Adjutant-General Baker was the state manager, and each county, and indeed each township had its committees.

At a meeting of the Sibley Grange, held the evening of the 7th of October, 1873, the following among the proceedings was had:

"On motion, J. F. Glover, H. C. Hungerford and F. M. Robinson were authorized and instructed to prepare an address to the Master of the National Grange, and to the State





RESIDENCE OF C. M. MANVILLE, OCHEYEDAN.



and Subordinate Granges of Iowa, soliciting supplies of grain for seed, to be used by the farmers of Osceola County in the spring of 1874, who are and will be unable to purchase the same on account of the almost total failure of crops the past season."

*The Gazette* notes one weeks receipts as follows: "Two boxes, three sacks, eight barrels of flour and two carloads of coal. General Baker reports nine more carloads of coal which will make seventeen in all. About \$200 in cash have been received, which will be used to procure seed grain."

The relief business soon fell into controversy and the newspapers were wrangling over the question.

*The Gazette* of December 19, 1873, had the following article:

"THE RELIEF QUESTION.—We notice that some of the papers in this part of the state are attributing all the destitution to this county; some of them even intimate that all the supplies which come to this place are distributed to the people of this county. In order to correct this impression, we have obtained from J. L. Robinson, the secretary of the distributing committee, the following figures:

"From the 10th to the 16th, inclusive, of this month, only six days, there has been filled sixty-seven orders for families of Lyon County, and thirty-four from Rock and Nobles Counties, Minnesota. Sixty-seven orders in six days from a county whose prominent men boasted in the *Sioux City Journal* that they could take care of their own poor, does not look much as if they were backing up their talk by deeds. It should be remembered that these orders are not for single articles, but are from half a ton of coal to provisions and clothing for a whole family, and in many instances all combined. The above explanation will also apply to the Minnesota applicants.

"We publish elsewhere a communication from Minnesota men in regard to the matter.

"While we have not denied the need of aid in this county, we think it hardly fair that we should have to bear the whole odium, especially when we are giving out supplies to people whose own county was going to take care of them, and to inhabitants of another state where there is no more than ordinary destitution. No doubt some have obtained supplies who did not really need them, but we should hesitate to call all those thieves who get aid, and they certainly would be such if they had taken when not deserving. As we understand the matter, the supplies were sent for the needy homesteaders



of the northwestern part of the state, and all received at this place have been so distributed, except those furnished destitute people in Minnesota. The distributing people are faithful careful men, and have done their work well; they may have been deceived, but we think that what complaint there may be, has come from those who have been refused when it was ascertained that they did not need.

"We hope that the papers of these neighboring counties will at least give us credit for what we have done, and not try to shove all their destitution off onto Osceola County, because it might injure their future prospects—especially in the face of the above mentioned facts."

On November 14, 1873, the following appeal was issued:

"AN APPEAL FOR AID.—*To the People of the State of Iowa:* We, the undersigned, a committee appointed by the Homesteaders' Protective Association of Osceola County, an organization effected for the purpose of looking after the extreme and urgent necessities of the people of said county, caused by the almost total failure of the crops, do deem it just and proper that we let our sister counties, who are in affluent circumstances, have positive knowledge of the situation of a very large proportion of the citizens of this county.

The most of the settlers came here last spring with little or no means, and depending entirely on their efforts during the summer to carry them through the winter; honestly and faithfully have they toiled. A very large amount of ground was sown and planted in the spring—more than sufficient to raise subsistence for all for the coming winter, if it had not been for an extremely wet, backward spring, and the invasion of a vast army of grasshoppers, which caused almost a total failure of corn and small grain crops, so that they now find themselves on the eve of a long, cold winter, worse off than in the spring; without food of the plainest kind, and without means to purchase fuel to protect themselves and families during the coming winter. There are hundreds of families who have not sufficient clothing, and know not where the bread that they will eat ten days hence is coming from, or their fuel. These same people relying on their crops to carry them through the winter, have labored diligently through the summer, and thousands of acres of the prairie have been turned over ready for a crop next spring.

"Now, therefore, be it known to the people of the State of Iowa, that without liberal assistance from some source, a very large portion of the citizens of this county will be without



the necessaries to sustain life, and also fuel to keep them from freezing, and unless, from some source, seed is furnished to these people to sow and plant in the spring, many of the broad acres that are now ready will have to lie idle the coming season.

"We therefore appeal to the liberal, christian hearted people of this state for assistance in the shape of money, clothing, fuel and staple articles of food.

"At the present writing there are at least two hundred families in the county needing immediate assistance.

"All consignments will be made to

"C. M. BAILEY, Agent H. P. A.,

"Sibley, Osceola County, Iowa.

"(For relief.)

"ALLEN GARVIN,

"ROBT. STAMM,

"W. W. CRAMM,

"J. L. ROBINSON,

"J. H. DOUGLASS,

"Committee."

At a joint meeting of the Relief and Grange Committees, held Saturday, January 3, 1874, the following township committees were appointed to canvass the several townships and ascertain the actual necessities of the inhabitants:

Township 98, Range 42—S. Haney, A. H. Miller and A. W. Mitchell.

Township 98, Range 41—C. Thompson, J. Mandeville and W. Rea.

Township 98, Range 40—N. D. Bowles, J. C. Moar and D. W. McCullam.

Township 99, Range 42—Wm. Anderson, F. Townsend and E. Huff.

Township 99, Range 41—W. S. Westcott, W. A. Spencer and Curtis.

Township 99, Range 39-40—C. Boyd, W. A. Waldo and F. Thayer.

Township 100, Range 42—N. I. Wetmore, F. Reynolds and S. Cram.

Township 100, Range 41—Wm. Thomas, P. Piesley and A. Shapley.

Township 100, Range 40—W. W. Herron, Q. E. Cleveland and J. F. Pfaff.

Township 100, Range 39—J. S. Flint, C. M. Richards and Ira Stevens.





C. I. HILL.



The State Senate of 1873-74 appointed a committee to visit Northwest Iowa with reference to legislative action for the purpose of securing a loan with which to buy seed grain. December 3, 1874, Geo. D. Perkins, Senator from Woodbury County, and Samuel Fairall, Senator from Johnson County, went to Sibley and held a conference with the people. They examined the Auditor's books in order to ascertain the financial condition of the county, and the feasibility of the county issuing warrants for the purchase of grain, and ascertained that the county could not obtain the supply needed from its own resources. These men expressed themselves as wishing that the entire General Assembly might be there and see for themselves, and promised that they would make an appeal for its sympathy, and to its patriotism for action in the matter. A bill was presented by Mr. Perkins asking an appropriation of \$105,000 for the purchase of seed grain and expenses of three commissioners to purchase and distribute; \$5,000 out of the amount appropriated to be paid for expenses. Under this bill the money was to be in the nature of a loan, which the parties were to pay back. After a discussion, a bill was agreed upon to donate, instead of loan, \$50,000 to the northwest counties, and this bill passed both houses and became a law. Out of this donation Osceola County got about \$8,000.

The Legislative Committee, Messrs. Brown and Tasker, arrived in Sibley March 12, 1874, and "opened court." They were armed with blanks, requiring the settler to state where he lived, whether he was owner or renter, and how many acres he had broken; also that he had no seed, no money to buy seed with, and that he would use the seed for sowing. They also required testimony where one's word was not considered good, and admonished each and all that the penitentiary stared them in the face if they swore falsely. This Legislative tribunal did their work and went home.

On March 27, 1874, after the relief business had undergone its usual trials and vexations, and charges of fraud had gone around, and considerable discontent and dissatisfaction, the following instructions were issued by General Baker to committee:

"In the distribution of all supplies the utmost caution and care must be exercised, and only the really needy must be supplied, and they must be careful to save something in reserve for emergency or in case of sickness.

"In order to conform to the above instructions the com-



mittee will require each applicant for aid to take and subscribe the following oath:

"SIBLEY, Iowa, ..... 1874.

"I, ..... do solemnly swear, so help me God, that I have not flour or other provisions sufficient to last my family one week, and that I have no means, on hand or at my command, to procure subsistence for my family.

"....."

Soon after this, which was in March, 1874, the relief business was ended.

On March 12, 1874, the state committee issued the following:

DES MOINES, March 12, 1874.

"*To the Public:* The undersigned would state for the information of all concerned, that all supplies in our possession for Northwestern settlers, will be distributed by April 1st, 1873. There may be a small amount left on hand at that date but hardly worth consideration. The settlers and committees must now act most cautiously and govern themselves in accordance with the existing condition of supplies. Any Grange or other benevolent people who have anything to forward should do so at once. All our advantages on railroad lines will probably cease by the date above designated. And here in conclusion, we wish to thank the railroads, express companies and the telegraph companies for all the great favors they have done to the Northwestern settlers, in forwarding the generous donations of our benevolent people.

N. B. BAKER.

J. D. WHITMAN,  
R. R. HARBOUR,  
D. W. PRINDLE,

*State Grange Committee.*

March 23, 1873, after an extended announcement, the people gathered in the courthouse at Sibley, crowding the house to its utmost capacity, to listen to General Baker and others, and to have sort of a speaking love feast over the winding up of the relief department. General Baker told them that he had done what he could for the people, that the supplies would soon end and that they were now thrown upon their own resources and must view it in that light and act accordingly. Messrs. Jordan, Glover and Riley also spoke to the people, and with three cheers and tigers for Baker the meeting dispersed. Thus ended the great relief campaign of 1873 and 1874.

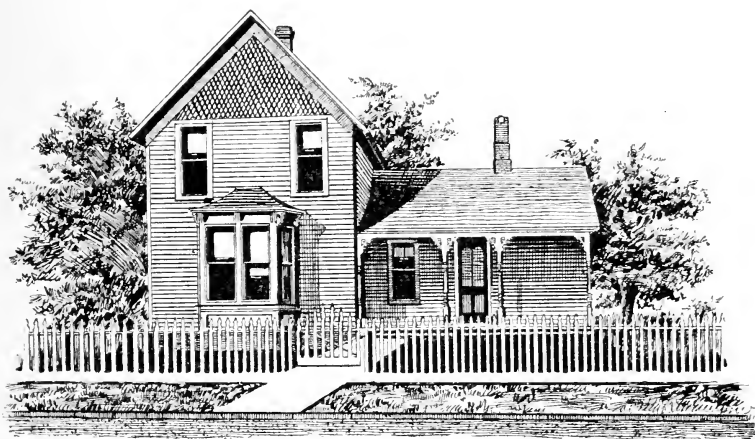


## CHAPTER XVIII.

Soon after the Huff residence was established Mr. T. J. Shaw put up a store building and put in a stock of goods; the building on the same section with Huff. Mr. Shaw afterwards filed on a part of Section 14, in Gilman, and in 1872, put up a store building in the town of St. Gilman (now Ashton) and moved his stock there. Shaw's store was the first store in the county, and in it in 1871, the old settlers used to congregate, and if we had a record of all their doings, and the stories there told, our readers would be highly entertained. Every blizzard would find about so many who happened to be at the store, and unable to get home. In one of the blizzards there were several of the old settlers caught there, among whom were Dr. Gurney, August and C. Thompson, W. A. Spencer and others. They took their horses in the store except one of them, and this they put into the railroad tank near by. This was not in the days of prohibition, and the boys had plenty of the ardent, and hence quite a jollification. One of them was preparing a pan of biscuits for baking while the others were watching the operation, when Shaw declared that his mother always striped biscuits when she made them, and these must conform to the parental custom, upon which he brought his foot down on the soft dough, giving them the required stamp, when they were pronounced ready for the oven, and in they went. When the settler got to Shaw's store he generally tarried awhile, talked over the news of the day, smoked a clay pipe and sat around on the barrel heads, and of the old settlers there were several there at all times during the day and evening. In April, 1871, Joseph Reagan with Uriah Cook, Jacob Henshaw and some others who settled in Lyon County, came to Osceola County from Madison County, Iowa. They went to the "Huff" house and through the services of our first settler secured claims. Mr. Reagan filed on a part of Section 20, Township 98, Range 42, now Gilman Township, and Uriah Cook filed on the same section Huff was on. Mr. Reagan still lives in the county, is one of the prominent men in Ashton and its postmaster. Mr. Cook now lives in Montana.

Reagan and party arrived at Huff's on the 8th day of





RESIDENCE OF C. A. TATUM, OCHEYEDAN.



April, 1871. Their outfit consisted of five wagons, twelve horses and mules and six head of cattle. Each of the wagons had occupants sleeping in them on the night of the 8th, and early on the morning of the 9th a terrible blizzard set in, and these wagon sleepers were soon covered with snow and crawled out and into a house. The next day they took the wagons and formed a half circle of them at the south side of the house, making a corral, in which they put their horses and then tied the cattle to the wagons on the outside. This storm lasted two days, and the company, consisting of about twenty men, women and children, filled the house, and at night it taxed the ingenuity of all to arrange the packing. Along with the inmates already named, there were three dogs and forty chickens, so that the time was not passed in Quaker silence, and everybody was in everybody's way, though all were jolly. The first night all were packed around systematically. Huff and his wife were placed in the northeast corner, then came Henshaw and his family, then the chickens and the rest of the crowd as they could be accommodated. The end where the horses were was considered unsafe, as the pressure against the boards was liable to break them in, so that Reagan, C. M. Brooks and Uriah Cook were assigned to that part of the shack to counteract the pressure from the outside.

The morning of the third day was pleasant, and each went their way to their separate claims. C. W. Freeman came to Gilman township in June, 1872, and settled on the northeast quarter of Section 8. He came from Humboldt County and with him came F. E. Cook, J. W. Carson and Will Smith. These four took Section 8. Mr. Carson died in January, 1883, and his popularity and his large circle of friends in the county justifies a reproduction of the following from January 24, 1883, number of the *Osceola County Review*, then published at Ashton:

"IN MEMORIAM.

"James W. Carson was born at Batavia, Genesee County, New York, February 16, 1833. When about thirteen years old his parents, leaving their eastern home, became pioneers in the then Territory of Wisconsin. A wonderful tide of immigration was pouring into the newer states and the territories bordering the Mississippi, and two years later, when Mr. Boyd Carson, the father of the subject of this sketch, removed to West Oregon, Dane County, Wisconsin had become a state. The father was one of the hardy pioneers of



the olden time, who, without the help of railways and modern conveniences of travel, made the long and tiresome journey to the frontier lands, and laid the foundations for prosperous communities and states. He is described as a man of sterling integrity and fine Christian character, and James W., the son, inherited from his father a high regard for what was true and pure in religious life. James, or "Kit," as he was popularly called by settlers old and new in this county, of which he was one of the first pioneers, grew to man's estate and was industriously employed in trade or farming, but the agitation of the slavery question and the disloyalty of the South, leading to the civil war, he early in the rebellion enlisted in the Second Wisconsin cavalry, and earned the merit of being a good soldier, but incurred hardships and injuries which laid the foundation of the disease which has taken him away, to the grief of his family, the sorrow of his friends, and the loss of the community. After the war, and soon after his marriage, he removed to Humboldt County, this state, where he remained two years. In 1871 he, in company with F. E. Cook and C. W. Freeman, removed to this county and located homesteads in Gilman Township. During his twelve years residence in this county he formed a wide acquaintance. The hold he had on the hearts of the settlers was well attested by the crowd that turned out to his funeral on the bitter cold Wednesday of this week. People gathered in from the three counties of Osceola, O'Brien and Lyon—one family driving fully ten miles across the country. Sheldon sent a large delegation and quite a number of old soldiers, bringing choice flowers and wreaths for the grave. Kind neighbors and comrades of both Sheldon and Sibley army posts served as watchers from the time—early Tuesday morning—that his remains reached Ashton from Minneapolis, where he died early on Monday—the immediate cause of his death being his inability to withstand the shock to his system, induced by an operation performed by surgeons at a hospital in Minneapolis, removing a large and bony-like tumor under the arm in the left side, which had developed until it reached the region of the heart."

In 1871, Nick Boor, along with John Streit and William Shultz, landed in Gilman Township. They came from Wisconsin, and drove through with a team. Nick filed on the southeast quarter of Section 4, Township 9S, Range 42, Streit on the northeast quarter of same section, and Schultz on the northeast quarter of Section 18. Mr. Schultz lives at Sheldon, and Boor and Streit still live in Gilman Township.



C. C. Osgood came in 1872, and settled in Gilman Township on the southwest quarter of Section 30. Mr. Osgood still lives on the same place, has weathered all the difficulties, and is a successful farmer.

Mr. William Foster settled in Gilman Township in 1872, on a part of Section 14. Mr. Foster died a few years ago, and his widow with her sons still live on the old homestead.

Ephraim Miller, in 1871, located on the southwest quarter of Section 26, Gilman Township; still owns the land, and still resides in the township on land he has since purchased.

Of these 1871 and 1872 settlers in Gilman Township but few remain in the township now. As far as we can learn they are Joseph Reagan, Nick Boor, John Streit, Ephraim Miller, C. C. Osgood and the Foster boys.

In the spring of 1873, J. E. Townsend, along with his brother George, came to Gilman Township from Michigan. George returned soon after and J. E. filed on the north half of the northwest quarter of Section 8, upon which he still lives with his family and has other land afterwards purchased. J. E. Townsend is now County Treasurer. This same year, 1873, also, Fred Poschack came from Wisconsin and filed on a part of Section 6, upon which he still resides. Other parties living in this township came in the years following these first settlements, and quite a number are renters. Among others of the farming people in Gilman Township, Mrs. John Neff resides on Section 1; also on the same Section John Rabe. M. A. Schend was an old settler in Lyon County and now lives on Section 2 in Gilman Township. On Section 2 also Mr. Frank Walrich and John Barbien. On Section 3 John Thorn; on Section 4 Joseph Dries, Anthony Geiver and also Mr. Streit; on Section 5 Jacob Johannes; on Section 6 Fred Poschack, Matt Spartz, John Seivert, B. Sturber and B. F. Pettingell. Mr. Pettingell is a Yankee from Massachusetts. Warren Robbins is on Section 7; Henry Shaa, Joseph Ehlen, besides J. E. Townsend on Section 8. Of still other residents of the county Joseph Dries, Jr., is on Section 9; also Matt Seivert and William Fuger; R. Linzen, Jacob Leinen, William Fuger on Section 10, Peter Kappes on Section 11; Thomas Cox and Charles Winters on Section 12. The town of Ashton is on Section 15 in this township and on Section 18 we find Henry Arends, W. Popkes, H. Lenitzens, and Mr. DeGroat. On Section 20 lives Rev. Mr. Nolte, a Quaker preacher; also C. W. Conner. Mr. Conner is a prominent





A. W. McCALLUM.



citizen and was a member of the County Board of Supervisors. George Jamison also lives on Section 20. Mr. John Jackley and Isaac Smalley are on Section 21 and B. H. Lyman and J. C. Wilmarth on Section 22. Wm. Keith and Wm. Craig live on Section 23; Nick Seivert, Nick Leinen and Phillip Grats on Section 24; on Section 27 lives Mr. Charles Lingleman and C. Groendyke; Mr. Ruben Heritage and James Sturgeon on Section 29, and on Section 30 is the old Iselin place improved by these boys John and Harry who came from New York with money but made a failure in business. Nels Porter and S. Laber are on Section 32 and C. Beck, Charles Huntsley and James Bunce on Section 34, with R. J. Stemm on Section 35. Gilman Township is one of the best and finest improved townships in the county and is well settled.

Referring again to Goewey Township, quite a number still live in the county who were among its earlier settlers. In May, 1871, George Perry, along with his brother John and W. A. Spencer, landed here, having drove through from Wisconsin. George settled on a part of Section 10, John on a part of 14, and W. A. Spencer on Section 24. T. E. Perry, father of John and George, came in the fall of 1871, and resided here until he died, July 14, 1890. The boys used their wagon covers and wagons for awhile as a habitation until they got something built for a house. Their first load of lumber was hauled from Windom, Minn., and the two Perrys, along with Spencer, went after it. On the road they overtook a traveler on foot who accepted an invitation to ride. When they got to Worthington, which was then starting as a town with only a few shacks, the traveler got a quart of whisky, and brought it around to treat the rest of them. Spencer not being a drinking man, declined to take any, and the fellow soon went away by himself, and about as the boys were starting on, came around again drunk as a lord. Pointing to Spencer he said, if that man had drank his share I wouldn't be tight, raising a question in moral philosophy whether or not after all Spencer was to blame for the man's drunkenness. After this first lumber hauled from Windom, they afterwards hauled from Cherokee. On one of George Perry's trips he drove through the Orange City settlement, which was composed mostly of Hollanders, and with these people wooden shoes being principal commodity, they were well stocked and the shoes were conspicuously displayed. George Perry bought a pair for himself and also a pair for his wife, more for the novelty of it than anything else. His wife saw



him coming home and as usual walked out about a mile to meet him. George made a little speech to her about the elegant foot gear he had seen, and thinking she needed a pair, he had invested for her, and presented to her the pair of wooden shoes. After that Mrs. Perry let her liege lord reach the house before she greeted him. She preferred to take her surprises in the way of presents at home.

Clark Perry, another brother, came in the fall of 1871, and settled on the southwest quarter of Section 10 and still lives on the original claim.

John Perry now lives on the claim originally taken by his father, and George now lives in Sibley.

W. A. Spencer resides in Sioux City; he has a son, however, C. A. Spencer, now residing in Goewey Township on Section 22.

In June, 1872, T. M. Spencer, a brother of W. A., came from Wisconsin and took the northeast quarter of Section 23. He has lived in the county since, except one year during the grasshopper period he worked in Cherokee. Mr. Spencer now lives in Ocheyedan; his sons, Charles A. and E. E., live in the same town, while another son, O., lives in Sibley.

G. L. Van Eaton also settled in this township in 1872, and is still the owner of the land upon which he settled. He is now in the lumber business at Little Rock. John Gray, another settler of 1872, lives at Ashton. Among other of the 1872 settlers now living in this township are George Barrager, Louis Folsom, James Ford, E. Ellis, Robert Edwards. George Spaulding, who still resides in the township, came in 1871, and also the same year James Hollands. Mr. Hollands now resides in Sibley. W. L. Daggett, now living on Section 36, also came in 1872. Mr. E. Elling and J. C. Inman, who, we think, are on Section 34, are also early settlers. Mrs. Clarinda Baker, who is also an early settler, resides on Section 30. Her husband was gored to death by a bull several years ago. In addition to those mentioned, among the early settlers in this township we find D. G. Crippen, Henry Hoffman, Alexander Gilkerson, George Haskins, Frank Finley, Eugene Guertin, L. Daggett, N. Madison, John Freeman, P. F. Jones—Mr. Jones was one of the early settlers of 1872—Nelse Christensen, W. H. Winney, P. O. Gillis, A. Bronson, John St. Clair, John Christensen, Henry Pollman, P. N. Folkers, D. Irish, T. Stephens, Mr. Brandt, the Johannes brothers, Walter Philips, W. P. Reeves, I. Brandt, C. Crumb, P. Foley.

Peter and Andrew Sherbonda, who are still living in the



township on Section 6, settled there in 1872. B. F. Curtis, who settled on Section 34 in 1872, now resides in Sioux City. Charles Bangert, living on Section 19, is at present one of the County Board of Supervisors. W. R. Foster lives, we think, on Section 20, and Lent on Section 21. In referring to these present residents, there will no doubt be some omissions, as the writer has gathered several townships from inquiry.

#### COURTS.

There was in 1872 a District Court, and also a Circuit Court, both being courts of record. Their jurisdiction was about the same, except that the District Court had exclusive criminal jurisdiction, and the Circuit Court had exclusive probate jurisdiction. Both districts comprised several counties, of which Osceola was one.

The first term of the Circuit Court was held in Osceola County in 1873, with Hon. Addison Oliver presiding. The first case on the calendar seems to have been Jacob Franz & Co. vs. F. L. Ward, and the case was continued. John H. Douglass was then Sheriff and John F. Glover, Clerk. The following attorneys seem to have figured into the business of that term: H. Jordan, J. H. Swan and James T. Barclay.

The record does not show any litigated cases, owing, perhaps, to the fact that the attorneys were not numerous enough. Everybody seemed to get judgment in what cases there were. The next term of this Court was held in December and in 1884 the State Legislature abolished the Circuit Court, leaving the District Court as the only Court of Record.

The first term of the District Court, Hon. Henry Ford presiding, was held at Sibley in July, 1872. The record makes mention of the fact that it was the first term of any Court of Record held in the county. The officers were: Judge, Henry Ford; District Attorney, C. H. Lewis; Clerk, C. M. Brooks; Sheriff, Frank Stiles.

The record states that C. I. Hill, C. W. Blackmer, H. Jordan and J. T. Barclay were present as members of the Sibley bar, and Sioux City attorneys as follows: L. Wynn, W. L. Joy, O. C. Treadway, H. B. Wilson and J. H. Swan. The first case on the calendar was L. F. Diefendorf vs. J. H. Winspear and others. The action was to restrain Winspear, Frank Stiles and others from building school houses. The injunction was modified, and in September following, in vacation, Diefendorf dismissed the action, and the school houses, under the direction of Winspear, Stiles and others, went on in





J. E. TATUM.



construction. This term of court lasted two days and consisted principally of a few judgments, there being no criminal cases and no jury, either grand or petit.

The next term of the District Court was held in April, 1873. The same officers were present, except that John H. Douglass was Sheriff and John F. Glover Clerk. District Attorney C. H. Lewis stated to the court that there was an irregularity in drawing the grand jury, and asked that the precept be set aside, which was done, and the court then ordered a new precept to issue, which was issued, and the following were the first grand jurors of the county: H. G. Doolittle, B. A. Dean, J. L. Robinson, E. Morrison, J. I. Halstead, A. M. Culver, N. Thompson, J. Slecht, H. Babcock, J. W. Kerr, T. J. Cutshall, Charles Mandeville, R. F. Kinne, D. L. Riley and O. Dunton. Frank Stiles and F. M. Robinson were held to answer to the grand jury from a preliminary examination before a justice, and upon inquiry to these parties as to challenge, Stiles challenged Riley and Dunton. H. G. Doolittle was chosen as foreman, and the jury was instructed and charged by the court. The record then says, after being charged by the court they retired to consider upon their duties. There is no further record as to this grand jury, or the case against Robinson and Stiles, so that we are left to conclude that the grand jury are still out considering their duties, and Robinson and Stiles are still waiting in doubtful apprehension of an indictment.

The first civil case tried in this court was H. Jordan vs. J. H. Winspear, and the nature of the case is not disclosed. A jury was had, which was the first petit jury in the county, and was composed of the following named members: J. McKinney, H. Reeves, C. W. Wyllys, Thomas B. Jackson, W. H. Morrison, S. W. Lang, G. R. Helmoly, A. Buchman, C. Anderson, C. T. Torey, Joseph Kappes and George Taylor. Jordan was defeated in his suit, and retired at an expense of \$13.40. Several individual judgments were rendered, and Osceola caught it to the tune of \$14,851.12 from several different parties, altogether aggregating that amount.

It is not necessary to follow the record of these courts further; the only desire is to show something connected with their first terms. We might add, however, that the first person naturalized in the county, was John R. Robertson by Judge Ford, and the first estate to be probated was that of Patrick Baker, deceased.

We also omitted to state that the only litigated case in



the first term of the Circuit Court was that of *G. Toun vs. Sioux City and St. Paul Railroad Company*, in which case *J. T. Barclay* was attorney for plaintiff and *J. H. Swan* for defendant. The jury was as follows: *H. L. Baker, C. Manderville, J. W. Collman, E. E. Headley, S. Cram, C. W. Wylls, Daniel Busbu, Frances F. White, Thomas B. Jackson, George Fablinger, H. F. Manderville, Lewis Cole*. Barclay carried off the honors of the victory, and obtained a verdict for seventy-five dollars and costs at the first trial; but the clever and tenacious Swan, who knows but little of the word defeat, appealed the case to the Supreme Court. It is said that when a lawyer gets beaten in a case he either appeals, or goes down to the tavern and swears at the court, and in this case Swan appealed.

We have now only a District Court, comprising Woodbury, Sioux, Lyon, Osceola, Plymouth, Monona, O'Brien, Cherokee and Harrison Counties. Within this Judicial District are four Judges, who agree among themselves as to the time and place each shall hold. The Judges are: *George W. Wakefield*, of Sioux City; *Scott M. Ladd*, of Sheldon; *Frank R. Gaynor*, of Le Mars, and *A. Van Wagenen*, of Rock Rapids. These Judges, all of them being members of different political parties, are men of unquestioned integrity, of ability, learned in the law, and preside with a desire to hold the scales in equipoise and do justice to all. *Will Thomas* is Clerk of Court in Osceola.

#### JUSTICES.

Justices' courts were in running operation before there was held a court of record. The office of Justice of the Peace, says Judge Conklin, is of somewhat remote origin, having been first instituted in England, it is said, as early as the time of William the Conqueror. The office was introduced into this country by our forefathers on their first settlement here, so that the people are accustomed to these courts and have them.

At the 4th of July meeting in 1871 nominations were made for Justices of the Peace.

The first year of the county organization the Justices were as follows: *H. L. Clapsaddle, O. Dunton, Frank Stiles, D. F. Curtiss* and *J. H. Winspear*.

Since then others have been elected and retired, and the Justices of the county in 1892 are as follows:



Holman—D. L. McCausland and E. Walton.

Ocheyedan—A. E. Smith and R. J. O. McGowan.

Harrison—Charles Mietke and E. L. Krukenberg.

Baker—Dirk Frey.

Wilson—R. S. Eakin.

Fairview—Thomas Jackson.

Gilman—Joseph W. Reagan.

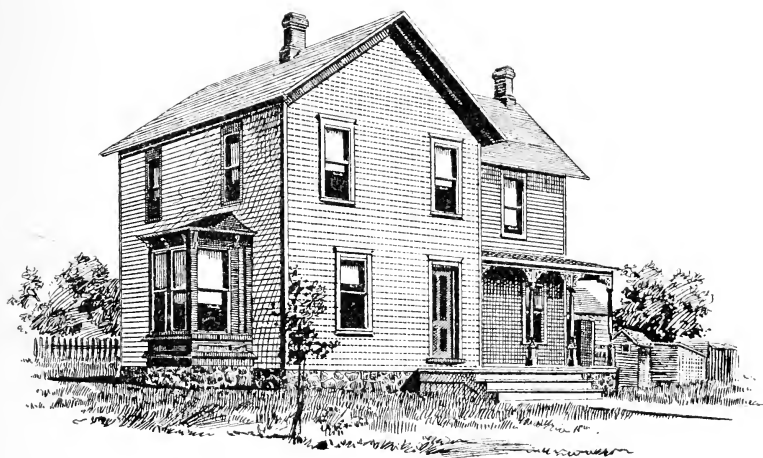
Horton—W. R. Boling.

Goewey—W. J. Reeves.

Other District Court officers are, John F. Stamm, Sheriff, and T. P. May, Deputy.

There are often many amusing things occur in justice courts, and in the early days of Osceola County there were many here, but the records have not preserved them, and the lawyers who still survive them are reticent, while others who were in practice here then, have gone and some have died. Among the justices at an early day was W. R. Boling in Horton Township—in fact, he is now justice. An action was brought before him of ejectment, and was between — Wassmann and G. B. Garvy. McCallum brought the suit for Wassmann, the trial was set for January 2 at nine o'clock. McCallum, the Sheriff and his deputy, Webb, with McCausland, started over from Sibley, starting at three o'clock in the morning, and at daylight the thermometer was twenty-six degrees below zero; but they were going to a law-suit, and the stimulus of the coming contest kept them warm—for we wouldn't for a moment intimate that anything else contributed to their comfort. P. R. Bailey, of Sheldon, was to be McCallum's opponent, but the distance to go and the early hour was too much for him, so he staid at home. The parties were all there in season, and a jury was called, whose qualifications were inquired into, and Mc found that all of them were quite satisfactory. The trial commenced and proceeded, the testimony was in and McCallum was making his argument. Just as Mc commenced, Jack Blair and A. V. Randall arrived, and Blair, seeing a chance for a little fun, went on top of the one-story building, laid a sack over the stove-pipe, sticking up through the roof, and sat down on it. The stove had just been replenished with soft coal, and in an instant the room was filled with black, sulphurous smoke, but Mc kept on until Webb went to shaking the stove-pipe to make it draw, when about twenty links of pipe, filled with soot, came suddenly down on the heads of the jurors, the litigants, the court and the counsel, when all beat a hasty retreat out of doors, and there was such





RESIDENCE OF M. A. TATUM, OCHEYEDAN.



a similarity in appearance, that it was hard to tell one from the other. They found out, however, what the trouble was, re-adjusted things and went at it again, but Blair's escape saved him from a fine for contempt. The case lasted all night, and at six o'clock the next morning, the jury were led off to a school house by Sheriff Lent for the purpose of deliberation, and were out some time before they returned, and when they did their verdict was for Wassmann. The court room for the purposes of the trial was Seymour Coyour's shack, and while the jury were out McCallum, Randall, McCausland and Webb "turned in," as the sailors call it, that is all four of them went to bed together, and while they were snoozing quietly, Blair appeared again and laid a hog's head carefully between Randall's head and McCallum's, which woke Mc up, and himself and what was left of the hog were staring at each other, for their countenances were in close proximity. The trial ended with a judgment for Wassmann, and then followed an execution to collect the costs. There was nothing in sight to levy on but some potatoes, and these were hardly in sight, for they were buried in a pit under ground. The Sheriff, however, armed with the usual process, went out to Garvy's place, took a man with him, and spent nearly a day digging into the frozen ground and finally into the pit, but the potatoes were missing. Upon a closer examination there was found to be another hole on the other side of the pit from where the Sheriff had excavated, where the debtor had stole a march on the expected execution, and removed his potatoes to other quarters.

Since writing the above, A. V. Randall denies the four in a bed, and the pig's head story so far as he was concerned, and states that he was a member of the jury.

In 1873 Charles Brannock who lived near the Ocheyedan and who was like most of the settlers, hard up for something to eat, had caught some kind of an animal, probably a muskrat and after skinning it was cooking the carcass on a fire out of doors. In an unfortunate moment the prairie grass caught fire, and soon the fire was spreading in every direction. Brannock was arrested and bound over. He was allowed to remain at home to get bail, but the next day the fury of the people demanded his incarceration and Sheriff Douglass was ordered out with the necessary papers. In order that the arrest should be a complete success, quite an army volunteered to go along and did on horseback, armed with Winchesters, so that their going presented quite a body of cavalry and they



soon reached Brannock's cabin and the terrified fellow was ordered to surrender which he did. He asked leave, however, to go inside and change his clothes and once in, crawled out of a back window and by cautiously creeping at first and getting in the grass he made his escape. There were some who understood his condition of poverty and his peaceful and law-abiding disposition and who felt that while the act was a violation of the law, still it was not malicious nor intended; these wanted him to get away and we suspect that Douglass was one of them. They waited for his return in changed suit, and when sufficient time had elapsed, an investigation was made and it was found that he had escaped. Some one, a friend to Brannock, said that he just saw him going over the hill towards the south, and away went the cavalry flying after him; when that hill was reached the friend said he saw him going over the next one, and on went the horsemen in furious following, and thus for several miles they were led, and this with searching took up about the whole day. In the mean time Brannock had started north while the searchers were still searching he was safe in Minnesota, as only a few miles travel was required to get there.

D. D. McCallum's first case was before a Justice of marked morality, who was extremely harsh with criminals. His weakness was his veneration for veterans of the late war, all of whom he esteemed as unrewarded heroes. McCallum had fought four years. His client was a thief. "The only thing I can do for you," said McCallum, after having gained the man's confidence, "is to implore the mercy of the court. When you get on the stand tell the whole truth."

The man had stolen a cow, killed it, sold the hide and taken the carcass home to his family, which was really suffering for the necessaries of life. The prosecution, with a long line of witnesses, had made a perfect case, and the brow of the Justice was draped in ominous frowns when the the prisoner was called. The latter did as directed by his attorney, concealing nothing—from the almost starving condition of his wife and family to the dressing of the stolen beef.

"Now, your honor," said McCallum, "the defense has no witnesses. My client is guilty. He has hidden nothing from this court. It is the first time he has ever transgressed the law. He was inspired to do wrong by that instinct we even admire in brutes."

Then, turning to the prisoner as if the fact had nearly escaped him, McCallum said:



"By the way, you were a soldier in the late war, were you not?"

"Yes, sir."

"Weren't you at Gettysburg?"

"Yes, sir."

"So was I. And you were in other historic battles, fighting for your country, while your wife and family suffered at home?"

"Yes, sir."

The prosecution at this point saw the way the case was drifting, and attempted to ridicule the "old soldier defense," as the prosecuting attorney named it.

The effect upon the old Justice was to arouse all his loyalty and indignation.

"Enough of this," said he, bringing his hand down on the desk in front of him with a thundering thud. "No soldier, no man who shed his best blood for his country, not even if he be a criminal, can be reviled in my presence. The prisoner is discharged. And, sir, when you are suffering for the necessities of life again, come to me."

The joke was too good to keep. McCallum one day told him the old soldier was an ex-Confederate; but never again did McCallum practice in that court.

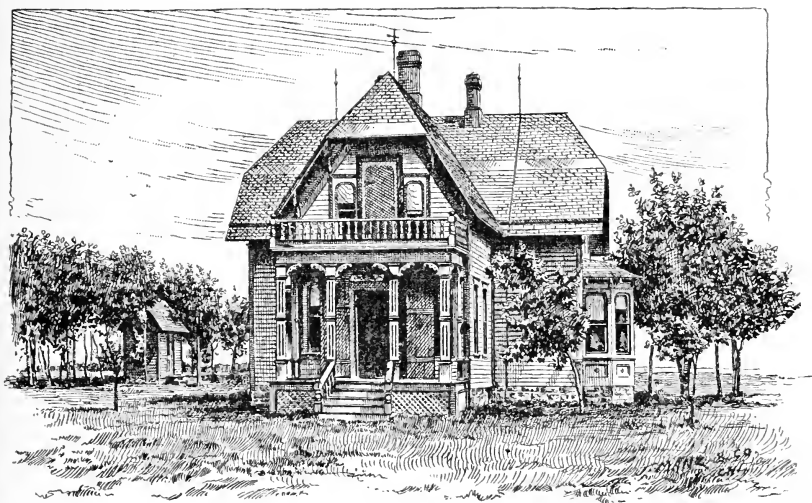
#### COUNTY OFFICERS—1872.

Recorder .....	D. L. McCausland.
Treasurer .....	A. M. Culver.
Sheriff .....	Frank Stiles.
Surveyor .....	M. J. Campbell.
Superintendent of Schools .....	Delily Stiles.
Auditor .....	F. M. Robinson.
Clerk of Court .....	C. M. Brooks.
Supervisors .....	{ J. H. Winspear.
	{ Geo. Spaulding.
	{ H. R. Fenton.

#### 1873.

Recorder .....	D. L. McCausland.
Treasurer .....	A. M. Culver.
Sheriff .....	J. H. Douglass.
Surveyor .....	M. J. Campbell.
Superintendent of Schools .....	Delily Stiles.
Auditor .....	F. M. Robinson.
Clerk of Court .....	J. F. Glover.





RESIDENCE OF D. D. McCALLUM, SIBLEY.



Coroner .....	J. M. Jenkins.
Supervisors, until April 21 .....	{ D. L. Riley. H. R. Fenton. Geo. Spaulding.
Supervisors, after April 21 .....	
	{ D. L. Riley. P. Dunton. B. F. Mundorf.

1874.

This year there was no change in the offices of Recorder, Sheriff, Surveyor and Coroner. The other officers were as follows:

Auditor .....	W. M. Moore.
Treasurer .....	S. A. Wright.
Superintendent of Schools .....	J. M. Jenkins.

A change of one in the Board of Supervisors—T. E. Perry in place of B. F. Mundorf.

1875.

The officers of preceding year remained the same, except County Surveyor, H. G. Doolittle, and A. H. Brown, member of Board, in place of T. E. Perry.

1876.

This year the county officers were as follows:

Recorder .....	D. L. McCausland.
Treasurer .....	Levi Shell.
Sheriff .....	John Douglass.
Surveyor .....	H. G. Doolittle.
Superintendent of Schools .....	C. L. Gurney.
Auditor .....	W. M. Moore.
Clerk of Court .....	J. F. Glover.
Coroner .....	Wm. R. Lawrence.
Supervisors .....	{ D. L. Riley. O. Dunton, Ch'n. A. H. Brown.

1877.

The above officers remained the same, except the following changes:

Clerk of Court .....	W. J. Miller.
Recorder .....	E. Huff.

Supervisor—C. W. Wyllys in place of O. Dunton.



1878.

County officers were as follows:

Recorder .....	E. Huff.
Treasurer .....	Henry C. Hungerford.
Sheriff .....	John H. Douglass.
Surveyor .....	M. J. Campbell.
Superintendent of Schools .....	Mrs. W. L. Parker.
Auditor .....	W. M. Moore.
Clerk of Court .....	W. J. Miller.
Coroner .....	W. R. Lawrence.
Supervisors .....	{ D. L. Riley.
	{ Henry C. Allen.
	{ C. W. Wyllys.

1879.

The officers of 1878 remain the same, except the following change:

Supervisor—H. L. Emmert in place of D. L. Riley.

1880.

The only changes in county officers for this year were, Wm. R. Lawrence, Superintendent of Schools, in place of C. L. Gurney; W. H. Barkhuff, Coroner, in place of Lawrence, and Geo. S. Downend, Supervisor, in place of ———

1881.

The county officers of 1881 stood as follows:

Recorder .....	Mrs. C. I. Hill.
Treasurer .....	H. C. Hungerford.
Sheriff .....	John H. Douglass.
Surveyor .....	M. J. Campbell.
Superintendent of Schools .....	Wm. R. Lawrence.
Auditor .....	W. M. Moore.
Clerk of Court .....	John S. Davison.
Supervisors .....	{ H. C. Allen.
	{ Robert Stamm.
	{ Nicholas Boor.
	{ William Mowthorpe.
	{ Geo. S. Downend.

It will be noticed that this year the members of the Board were increased to five.



1882.

Recorder .....	Mrs. C. I. Hill.
Treasurer .....	Robert S. Hall.
Sheriff .....	Jacob B. Lent.
Surveyor .....	M. J. Campbell.
Superintendent of Schools .....	J. R. Elliott.
Auditor .....	W. M. Moore.
Clerk of Court .....	John S. Davidson.
Coroner .....	W. H. Barkhuff.

No change in Board of Supervisors.

1883.

There was no change this year in county officers from that of 1882, except H. G. Doolittle, Surveyor.

1884.

The changes this year from 1883 were: Auditor, J. S. Reynolds in place of W. M. Moore; H. Neill, Coroner, in place of Barkhuff, and G. W. Barrager, Supervisor, in place of H. C. Allen.

1885.

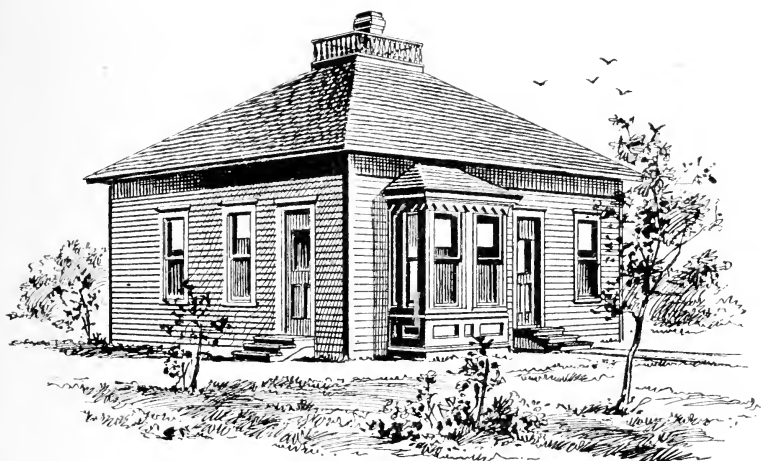
County officers for the year were as follows:

Recorder .....	Mrs. C. I. Hill:
Treasurer .....	R. S. Hall.
Sheriff .....	J. B. Lent.
Surveyor .....	H. G. Doolittle.
Superintendent of Schools .....	J. R. Elliott,
Auditor .....	J. S. Reynolds.
Clerk of Court .....	W. H. Kimberly.
Coroner .....	H. Neill.
Supervisors .....	{ Wm. Mowthorpe, Ch'n.
	{ G. S. Downend.
	{ Geo. W. Barrager.
	{ Albert Romey.
	{ N. Boor.

1886.

The officers for this year remain the same as 1885, with the following changes: W. J. Reeves, Superintendent of Schools, in place of J. R. Elliott; W. S. Webb, Coroner; C. P. Reynolds and Wm. Foster elected Supervisors in place of N. Boor and G. S. Downend.





RESIDENCE OF W. F. ALDRED, OCHEYEDAN.



1887.

The county officers of this year were as follows:

Recorder .....	S. S. Parker.
Treasurer .....	R. S. Hall.
Sheriff .....	J. B. Lent.
Surveyor .....	H. G. Doolittle.
Superintendent of Schools .....	W. J. Reeves.
Auditor .....	J. S. Reynolds.
Clerk of Court .....	J. B. Mead.
Coroner .....	W. R. Lawrence.
Supervisors .....	<div> <div></div> <div> S. A. Dove.  C. P. Reynolds.  Geo. W. Barriger.  J. E. Townsend.  A. Romey, Chairman. </div> </div>

1888.

Recorder .....	S. S. Parker.
Treasurer .....	J. B. Lent.
Sheriff .....	J. H. Douglass.
Surveyor .....	H. G. Doolittle.
Superintendent of Schools .....	W. J. Reeves.
Auditor .....	J. S. Reynolds.
Clerk of Court .....	W. R. Lawrence.
Coroner .....	W. R. Lawrence.

Supervisors same as 1887.

1889.

Recorder .....	S. S. Parker.
Treasurer .....	J. B. Lent.
Sheriff .....	J. H. Douglass.
Surveyor .....	H. G. Doolittle.
Superintendent of Schools .....	W. J. Reeves.
Auditor .....	J. S. Reynolds.
Clerk of Court .....	J. B. Mead.
Coroner .....	W. R. Lawrence.

There was also elected in the fall of 1889, under a new provision of the Legislature, a County Attorney.

County Attorney .....	O. J. Clark.
Supervisors .....	<div> <div></div> <div> G. W. Barrager, Ch'n.  A. Romey.  C. P. Reynolds.  S. A. Dove.  C. W. Conner, </div> </div>



1890.

Recorder .....	S. S. Parker.
Treasurer .....	J. B. Lent.
Sheriff .....	J. H. Douglass.
Surveyor .....	John A. Flower.
Superintendent of Schools .....	F. W. Hahn.
Auditor .....	J. S. Reynolds.
Clerk of Court .....	J. B. Mead.
Coroner .....	W. E. Ely.
Attorney .....	O. J. Clark.
Supervisors .....	{ C. P. Reynolds, Ch'n.
	{ A. Batie.
	{ C. W. Connor.
	{ A. Romey.
	{ S. A. Dove.

1891.

Recorder .....	W. H. Gates.
Treasurer .....	J. B. Lent.
Sheriff .....	J. H. Douglass.
Surveyor .....	J. A. Flower.
Superintendent of Schools .....	F. W. Hahn.
Auditor .....	J. S. Reynolds.
Clerk of Court .....	Will Thomas.
Coroner .....	W. E. Ely.
Attorney .....	G. W. Lister.
Supervisors .....	{ S. A. Dove, Chairman.
	{ Adam Batie.
	{ C. W. Conner.
	{ P. A. Cajacob.
	{ C. P. Reynolds.

1892.

The county officers for this present year are as follows:

Recorder .....	W. H. Gates.
Treasurer .....	James E. Townsend.
Sheriff .....	John F. Stamm.
Superintendent of Schools .....	F. W. Hahn.
Auditor .....	J. S. Reynolds.
Clerk of Court .....	Will Thomas.
Attorney .....	G. W. Lister.



Coroner	-----	W. E. Ely.
		{ A. Batie, Chairman.
		{ S. A. Dove.
Supervisors	-----	{ W. H. Noehren.
		{ Charles Bangert.
		{ P. A. Cajacob.





D. H. BOYD.



## CHAPTER XIX.

Returning again to Ocheyedan Township, we find its settlement in 1871 was not extensive, but its incoming settlers in 1872 were quite numerous. In July, 1872, Daniel H. Boyd filed on the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 2. Himself and son Charles first looked the county over, and, when final place of location was fixed upon, Mr. Boyd went to Cedar Falls, where his family were, and all came back with him to the claim. In the spring of that year, 1872, Mr. Boyd, with the desire to go west which seized many people then, left the State of New Hampshire, that beautiful country of scenery that Bayard Taylor called the "Switzerland of America." Mr. Boyd first put up a small building on the shack order, and in the fall built a better house—the one he still resides in on the original claim—and, after a lapse of twenty years, he has a beautiful home there, overlooking the thrifty town of Ocheyedan, and where its magnificent forest trees add to its attractiveness and beauty.

Along in September of 1872, Mr. R. S. Hall and Albert March came to the Boyd place, they, too, fresh from the Granite State. Mr. Hall, a few years ago, went to Long Pine, Nebraska, where he still resides. Mr. March still lives on the original claim.

On the morning of the January 7 (1873) blizzard, Mr. March, who was putting up a building on his claim, started from Mr. Boyd's to work that day. As stated elsewhere concerning the blizzard, the morning was beautiful, and Mr. March went with clothing for only ordinary weather, as he was to return again at night. His partially built shack was two miles east from Mr. Boyd's, and before Mr. March reached it the blizzard had commenced, so that, once there, he did not long remain, but started back for Mr. Boyd's house. He lost his way and wandered for over two hours, not knowing which way he was going, with the storm increasing and the atmosphere growing intensely colder. Mr. March went down upon his knees, and in the face of death offered up a prayer for his deliverance. Soon after rising he saw, not far from him, in a lull of the storm, a small shanty, which proved to be that of Mr. Sutton, which was about two miles southeast from Mr.



March's own claim. Mr. Sutton had been caught in the storm at Mr. Ireland's place, and Mr. March remained with the other members of the Sutton family until the third day, when the storm was over.

On the second day of that blizzard Mr. Boyd and Mr. Hall started from the Boyd place to go to March's shack to look after him. It was a hazardous undertaking to go two miles in that terrible blizzard and back, but these two men had concluded that March was still there and might still be alive, and that they might save him. They carried a string with them, stretching it out about forty rods, and at the end of this, by going slowly and carefully, they followed the blind road which had been made by some hauling to the March place, and at last reached the shack, but there was no occupant. These two disappointed men concluded that March was lost, and that, rigid with freezing and with death, he lay out somewhere upon the prairie. The task of returning was then before them. Mr. Hall was about exhausted and wanted to lie down, but Mr. Boyd—of an iron constitution and good pluck, and fearful that Hall would give out on the way—encouraged his companion to make the venture, which they did, and, after a few hours of tedious plodding and in a feeling of apprehension for their own safety, they arrived back at the Boyd residence.

On the third day, after it had cleared up some, Charles Boyd was about to go, under the direction of his father, to the Sutton place to see if March was there, when March himself, to the delight and astonishment of the Boyd household, opened the door and walked in, alive and well.

On this same Section 2, upon which Mr. Boyd filed, Frank Taylor took the east half of the northeast quarter in 1872, Charles R. Boyd the east half of the northwest quarter, and Mr. A. B. Elmore the west half of the northwest quarter. The southeast quarter of this same section was a tree claim, filed on by Mr. Ruttenburg, but which D. H. Boyd subsequently became the owner of. The southwest quarter was settled upon originally by Mr. Greenleaf. James Goodwin, of Spencer, afterwards became the owner of it, and sold to Lorenzo B. Boyd, who still owns it and there resides, except fifty acres on the east side conveyed to Mrs. Tracy, and upon the south half of this Section 2 is a part of the Ocheyedon Townsite. Lorenzo B. and Charles R. Boyd are sons of D. H., and the Boyd family in one of sterling integrity, and are among the best citizens in the county. Mr. A. B. Elmore still resides on his



original Ocheyedan Township claim, and, quoting from a former work on Northwestern Iowa, it is said of him: "He is an energetic, hard-working farmer, possessed of broad ideas, and is well known as an honorable upright citizen."

Geo. N. Taylor and S. S. Parker left Minnesota, where they were then living about sixty miles northwest of St. Paul, on the 6th day of May, 1872, and landed on the bank of the Ocheyedan on the 28th. They both took claims on Section 6, Township 99, Range 40. Mr. Parker was afterwards elected Recorder and moved to Sibley, where he still resides. Mr. Taylor lives in Ocheyedan. Taylor's first crop, or a part of it, was two acres of wheat intended for family bread. He harvested just one bushel, the grasshoppers had harvested ahead. Mr. Taylor lost a yoke of oxen in the January, 1873, blizzard. Luke Horrobin settled in Ocheyedan Township in 1872, and came here from Ohio. He first settled on Section 6 and afterwards removed to Section 14, where he now resides. About 1873, Mr. L. Tatum, with his son, C. A. Tatum, drove through from Floyd County, and arrived in Osceola in May. L. Tatum filed on a part of Section 14, in West Ocheyedan, and in the same Township C. A. Tatum filed a homestead on a part of Section 24. L. Tatum is now in Nebraska, and C. A. Tatum still owns his original homestead and resides in the Town of Ocheyedan. A picture of his residence is on another page. W. H. Barkhuff, who has a very fine farm in this township, came from Fayette County in March, 1872. He has braved the new country adversities with final success. John Hesebeck came in 1872, and still lives on the original claim. John has had a hard time of it like the rest of us, but is a successful farmer. In this township also resides Hans Graves, who is mentioned as one of the Graves family, most of whom settled in Baker Township, also John Graves. Hans and John came in 1872, and both have as fine farms as can be found in the state. Claus Yess, living in this township, also came in 1872. Mr. Yess now lives in a fine residence, across the road from which stands the original cabin which he first built.

Geo. Raynor has a very fine place, having purchased it from one of the Scotch settlers, so called, for at one time there was a Scotch settlement in Ocheyedan Township, which scattered from misfortune or inexperience in farming. G. A. Peter, who still lives in this township and is a good farmer, is a son of one of the Scotch settlers. On the east side of the township are C. E. Benson, E. J. Benson and F. E. Benson. E. J. has been some time in the township. Other residents





JOHN H. DOUGLASS.



are John Armstrong, I. N. Beanger, A. C. Barnett, A. A. Barnett, Anton Barta, C. H. Button, C. S. Buchner. George Bremmer is an old resident of this township and lives in the southwest part of it. J. J. Callender has been here about six years, Edmund Devine about three years and John Ginnie about two years. James Hall, on the east side, is something of an old settler, enough so as to have had a touch of the grasshoppers and has been here about fourteen years. F. H. Hunt, along with H. C. March, came in 1875 from New England. Mr. Hunt purchased the Luke Horrobin place and now has an elegant home. Mr. March is well situated, and had the misfortune about a year ago to lose his wife by death. Richard Harrison, living south of town, has resided there about three years. Others have been here as follows: M. N. Herbert about five years, Joseph Korth about seven, while J. H. Kerby has been here considerably longer. H. J. and R. C. Lutson have been residents about five years, D. J. Smith about the same; also B. J. J. Morritz, O. J. Barkhuff and J. F. and E. J. Bradley. Among other residents of a latter date are M. J. Swazy, Thomas Wise, I. W. Olmstead, Wallace Olmstead, John A. Smith, Otto Rumford, Charles F. Porter, Manley Pickett, J. S. Floyd, Ira Swaney, George Dearhalt. T. B. Fletcher, who lives near the noted Ocheyedan Mound, came about five years ago, as also did W. A. Cooper.

C. N. Moar is considerable of an old settler, as is also Gilbert and Milan Gee. Hope Graham has been here about ten years, and William Siver is considered an old settler. Among other residents are W. A. Cook, J. H. Kuntz, N. Richardson, N. I. Peter, Albert and Charles Shephard, P. H. Tierney, Cornelius Tierney, R. S. Thompson, J. H. Welsh and George Waldholm. F. L. James and A. W. Stephens are old settlers; also Walter Woolridge and C. C. Webster has been here about four years. James Thomas, who is considered an old settler, lives on the east side of the township. P. L. Thompson, a recent settler, and near him H. Tjden. Tjden, in addition to farming, is in the insurance business. J. P. Tower is an early settler and is still living on the original claim which he settled upon in 1872. John S. Robinson, on the west side, has lived there about five years, and Joel Carl, after an experience in Dakota, settled in the south part of the township about two years ago. J. J. Lintner has been here quite a number of years. There are also E. T. Evins, E. J. Lee, who has lived in the township about two years; also A. H. Paddock. We might further mention David Kratzer, H.



M. Trumbauer, W.E. Phinney, W. C. Ondler, Andrew Naab. O. J. Nenno is an old settler, M. N. Smith has lived in the township several years and C. R. Marsh about two years and H. W. Anderson about the same. Edward Everett lives near Ocheyedan, in this township. He first settled in the county in 1871, east of Ashton, in Gilman Township, and has been identified now for over twenty years in Osceola County affairs. His wife is of a literary turn of mind; has written some very elegant poetry and will soon publish a volume of her poems. Mr. Everett was one of the first justices in Gilman township and the first Sunday school superintendent in that part of the township, and indeed we believe the first in that part of the county. Ocheyedan has gained very much in settlement in the past two years and is a thrifty, productive township. On Section 17, west of Ocheyedan, is I. C. Stewart and M. M. Hulburt, and on Section 18 Charles Moore, and Max Decker on Section 33. Joseph Smith lives in the southeast part of the township. Ocheyedan Township, as a part of Osceola County, would still be incomplete without a mention of C. B. Knox. Mr. Knox, it is true, lives in Dickinson County, on the banks of Silver Lake but not a great distance from the east line of Ocheyedan. He came from Wisconsin in 1869 and camped for a few weeks on the banks of Spirit Lake, and in that same year settled upon the northeast quarter of Section 28, Township 100, Range 38, where he still resides. Mr. Knox had occasion to pass across Osceola County several times when not a white man was living in the county and when he encountered bands of Indians and saw nothing but the original untrodden prairie, an occasional wild animal and the roving red man. Mr. Knox has a lovely home overlooking the placid waters of that beautiful lake, and there enjoys life in contentment and with the respect of his neighbors and fellow citizens.



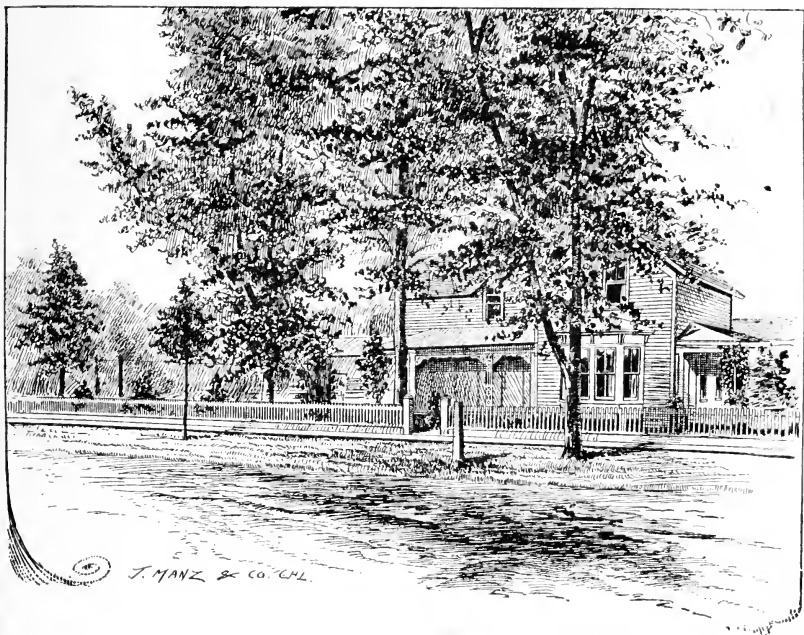
## CHAPTER XX.

The settlement of Holman Township east and west outside of Sibley began in 1871. The township is twelve miles east and west, by six miles north and south. The township was named after Supervisor Holman, of Woodbury County. Goewey Township and Horton were also named after members of Woodbury County's Board of Supervisors at the time that Board started Osceola County into existence.

The only settler in the township near the neighborhood of Sibley was Frank Stiles, and west of Stiles was J. H. Winspear, who had a small house near where C. F. Benson's residence now is. Just north of Sibley L. C. Chamberlain had a homestead, and near him Ed. Shufelt, now of Canton, South Dakota, had a pre-emption. Mr. Chamberlain lived there about twenty years, and now is in San Francisco, California. Near these D. Busbee, M. V. Beebe and J. K. Shaw were located, while west of these were Robert Stamm and John O'Neill. Garrett Irwin and James Bailey were in the same neighborhood. A mile west of Chamberlain's were E. Morrison, John Beaumont and D. L. Riley, while still further were Daniel Call, Charles Call and N. Richards and Busbee. On the section directly west of Sibley, where is now the fine stock farm of H. L. Emmert, were Henry L. Baker, W. W. Cram, Myron Churchill and Thomas Parland. On the first section south of town were R. O. Manson, Geo. W. Bean, A. M. Culver and his son, Andrew. West of these were G. F. Nixon, A. W. Mitchell and Pat Larkin, and still further west were John Coughlin, C. M. Bailey and Edward Lindsey. Near this section were located William Proper, William and Joseph Anderson, Rev. Mr. Aldrich and Thomas Jackson. East of these was the Robinson section, John L., F. M. and Ed., and near these were the Rice brothers, Martin and Hughes, also Doc. Ward. South of the Culvers were W. Belcher and near him David Chambers and sons. West of these were David Johns, Peter Wagner, Thomas Thompson, and near them John Welcher, S. F. Thompson and C. B. Hann.

Of these old settlers mentioned, Winspear went to Colorado; Stiles and Shufelt are in Dakota; M. V. Beebe is in





RESIDENCE OF JOHN H. DOUGLASS, SIBLEY.



Ellsworth, Minn.; J. K. Shaw is in Salt Lake City; W. H. Morrison is in Kettle Falls; John O'Neill and James Bailey have died; D. L. Riley is in Iowa Falls; H. L. Baker is in Indiana; Myron Churchill is in Pipestone, Minn.; W. W. Cram is in Nebraska; Edward Lindsey is dead, and his two sons, Harvey and Henry, have farms in this county; C. M. Bailey is in the Auditor's office at Des Moines; F. M. Robinson is at Atlanta, Ga.; and Pat Larkin is in Kansas.

Of the pioneers mentioned, but few remain on their claims. Robert Stamm continues to live on his claim, and A. W. Mitchell and John Coughlin are on the same original claims; David Jones, John Chamberlain and R. O. Manson also live on the land originally taken. East of Sibley, Dr. J. M. Jenkins and his brother John filed; near them, John I. Halstead and his son, Al Halstead, and also Rev. John Webb. A mile north of these was located J. F. Glover, F. F. White, E. A. White and S. A. Wright, and east of, C. F. Krueger and sons. Near these last mentioned, were Chauncey H. Bull, John E. Johnson and John E. Selecht. West of Bull were James Bowles, E. C. Jenkins, Howey Walters and Mr. Loharty. In the same neighborhood were the parties heretofore mentioned on Section 8.

On Section 14 were Wallace Rea, O. C. Staplin, John Roberts and C. A. Kirkpatrick. On Section 22 were J. S. Reynolds, Frank Coe and S. H. Westcott. On Section 24, H. G. Doolittle and John McDonald; near there was the Mandeville section—H. N. and his sons William and Charles. On Section 28 were John H. Miller, W. J. Miller, G. H. Perry and John Q. Miller; east were Hiram Burt, Michael Clapsaddle, H. S. Brown and J. Budworth; near by, Jack Kettle, Wm. Horton, H. L. Clapsaddle, W. H. Philips and J. B. Jenny. The Jenkins people have all moved away. The Halsteads moved to Nebraska, the White boys returned to Wisconsin, S. A. Wright to Nebraska, and Mr. Loharty perished in a blizzard. C. M. Brooks lives in Cedar Rapids and Hiram Austin in Kansas.

Thus the early settlers of Holman Township have scattered, except what few remain, and some have died. Those who left got discouraged and disheartened with the disadvantages which every new country has, and returned to their former homes, or sought other fields. The land of these early settlers is now occupied by other and later comers, who will reap the harvest, which, with the absent settlers failed to materialize.



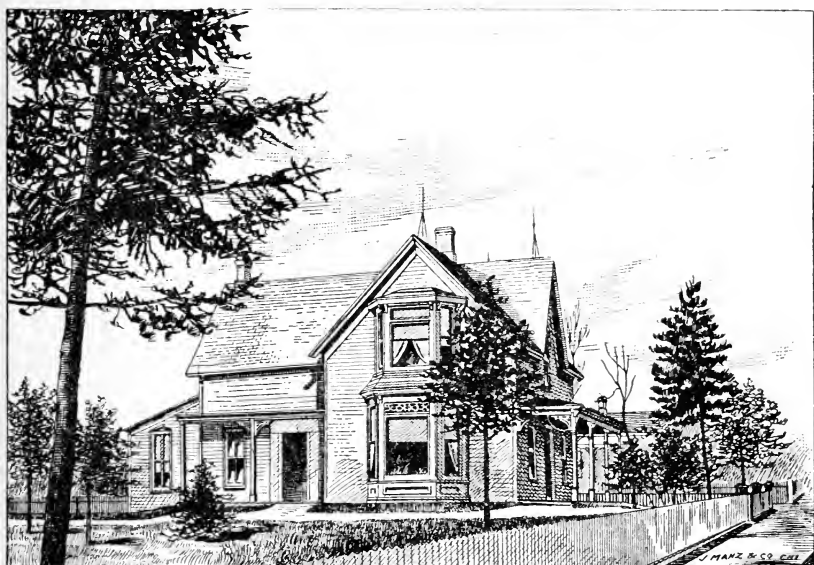
Among the present settlers, some of whom may through inadvertence be omitted, are Geo. N. Argubright, P. C. Alexander, Gens Anderson, Geo. Alberns, Horace Ackerson, Dirk Albers, Charles Andrews, Charles Thomas, William Brechel, C. F. Blackmore, J. W. Bechet, Frank Burton, A. L. Baxter, Will Chase, P. A. Cajacob—Mr. Cajacob is a member of the Board of Supervisors—J. S. Campbell, who bought the fine Philips farm, Geo. Cooper, M. J. Chambers, David Chambers, D. J. Chambers, Aaron Cox, H. L. Clapsaddle, J. J. Conway, G. De Bries, William Drahe, William Dix, J. L. Dufree, C. N. Flower, G. W. Flower, D. R. Flower, John Gerver, J. T. Greenfield. This last named gentleman is a pioneer who has a large farm. J. H. Gallagher also lives in this township, who is a fine stock breeder; also J. H. Gee, John Gache and Jonathan Gross. There are also A. Hunter, John Hess, Nick Hess, J. H. Kareem, Claus Hoffman, George Heritage, Mahlon Harvey, E. A. Hunter, Matt Hillers, P. Henry, Peter Johannes, D. D. Jenkins, J. G. Johnson, J. B. Jenney, Joseph Kappes, F. L. Kruger, W. H. Ketchem, A. Klossen, William Kastor, Theodore Ling, C. F. Ling, Thomas Larson, J. S. Martin, R. F. Maloney, D. Myer and J. Miller, whose wife is one of the big turkey raisers of the county, Peter Nelson, Dan O'Neill, John McCone, John Pfeffer, Peter Philbern, L. S. Patterson, Thomas Pell. This last named gentleman is a Congregational clergyman, who has been pastor of a church in the county and last winter preached in Florida. There are also Charles Parker, P. Redmond, N. H. Reynolds, Joseph Roth, John Redmond, B. A. Stamm, who is also a pioneer, Henry Shroeder, Will Shroeder, John Schulte, Robert Smith, who was also a pioneer, Martin Schmidt, G. L. Smith, Peter Shaw, James Stevens, James Thomas, Robert Taylor, J. F. Taylor, W. L. Taylor, G. B. Van Norman, David Whitney, John Wagner, who is a large farmer, John E. Wagner, T. M. Wagner. These names do not include all the residents of Holman Township, but such as could be ascertained by observation and inquiry. They have taken the even numbered sections of the government land, and the railroad land, being the odd numbered, and following the little settlements and small improvements of the pioneer, they have made Holman Township one of the finest agricultural districts in the country.

The farmers of this township, as well as all other townships, have, in less than a quarter of a century, built highways, made substantial homes, built school-houses, and today this



township, that in the sixties rated at \$1.25 per acre and in the seventies rated at \$2.50 to \$5 an acre, has advanced to be worth from \$25 to \$50 an acre. Industrial developement is marvelous. The Nineteenth Century advancement is wonderful to contemplate, but right here at our doors, before our very eyes, has been a transformation as remarkable as can be noted in any department of industry in the wide field of this great republic.





RESIDENCE OF W. B. STEVENS, SIBLEY.



## CHAPTER XXI.

The first settler in Baker Township was in 1871, but during that winter following, there was hardly anyone there. Several who had settled in Goewey in 1871, afterwards moved to Baker, and now reside there. Among these are W. H. Lean and Adam Batie. In 1872, a great many took claims in Baker; indeed, in 1872 and 1873, the Government land was about all taken. Among those that came to Baker in 1871, were Philip and Peter Ladenberger, and came from Wisconsin. Philip still resides in the county at Sibley. Peter perished in 1873 blizzard, elsewhere mentioned. John Kinne also came in 1871, and we believe that this gentleman and family were the only residents in this township in the winter 1871 and 1872. There were also Jacob Henshaw, Albert Waldo and Ed. Melvin. Mr. Melvin is in Sioux City, and Mr. Henshaw now resides in Dickinson County.

There was some breaking done in the township in 1871, and some vegetables raised, but the products of the county that year amounted to but little, and the shacks were very limited in number. Adam Batie drove through from Wisconsin in 1871, with Stephen Higgins, filed that year on a claim in Goewey Township, and afterwards settled in Baker. Mr. Batie is a member of the Board of County Supervisors. Elmore R. Hazen arrived in the county in 1872, and settled on the southwest quarter of Section 2, in Baker. He still owns the original claim. He put up the usual shack and did some breaking. On the Hazen place now live the Holle family, consisting of Herman Holle, wife, one daughter and three sons. A picture of C. W. Holle is elsewhere in the book. They own land themselves, but at present live on the Hazen place, and farm this along with their own.

Harmon Runyon took the northeast quarter of Section 2 in 1872, and is still living on the same place with valuable improvements. He came here from Winneshiek County, and along with him came Mr. Smith and Benj. Davis. Smith and Davis soon returned. Davis afterwards died, and Smith still lives in Winneshiek. Smith and Runyon also had a dangerous experience with the December, 1872, blizzard. They went to Sibley at that time and then drove around to Huff's to get



their papers, and while on their way home the blizzard overtook them. They kept pushing on with the storm, and finally brought up at Teabout's ranch, in Clay County. Runyon's hat blowed away, and in running after that, he lost sight of the team, and with difficulty found it again. Altogether it was a narrow escape for them, as it was with a great many others in those early blizzards.

Henry Dunkleman is still living in Baker on the same original claim filed upon in 1872. Baker Township has one postoffice called Gopher, of which W. H. Lean, elsewhere mentioned, is postmaster. It is on Section 6. Henry Bremmer is an early settler on Section 5.

Among other residents of the township, not otherwise mentioned, are Ira Peck, who is at present the only one living on Section 3. John Haskins, Charles Wilson, S. T. Price, Harvey Nash, Theodore Frey, H. W. Jones, Adolph Knox, A. Hager, John Frey, Peter Wilson, Peter Anderson, Hermen Frey, Henry Verteen, A. D. Wilson, W. Logar, George Leggett, August Buchholtz, Will Philips, Philip Schertzer, Henry Walters, Conrad Fink, John Fink, Charles Fink, Casper Diekman, Benj. Diekman, George Webster, H. Weigands, Clark Howard, W. Bell, James McAnrich, Herman Lyman, Thomas Dewey, Charles Goodman, John Price, Frank Cresap and son, Mr. Lyons, David Logar. Mr. Logar has invented a flax cleaner and obtained a patent on it, which is said to be a great improvement. Charles Timmons is on Section 2, and C. M. McDougal is on Section 15. Still others are Dirk Frey, J. D. C. Frey, Frank Quiggle, Philip Keller, John Benz, John Wiggenhausser, Peter Keutzer, John Jobes, Ernest Benz, Fritz Rhoda, S. M. Stanford, August Gentz, O. Dufrees, Henry Bremmer, H. Waehtel, Peter Johnson, J. Hokkoff, Theodore Reimmers, George Reimmers. C. W. Bryan, who is School and Township Clerk, lives on Section 21. Palmer Rumford lives on the east side of the township.

Hans Graves, who yet lives in Baker Township, came in 1872, along with H. Steffenhagen and one other party. Mr. Steffenhagen still lives in the township, and both himself and Mr. Graves are entitled to the success they have made of it, as they went through the early hard times. They returned for the winter and came out again in the spring of 1873. They came from Clinton County, and when they came back the following spring, there came with them Mr. Frank Graves, uncle to Hans, and other members of the family, Peter, John C., Frank and Jerry Graves and Claus Yess. These all took



claims. Peter and Frank Graves are now in Chicago in the jewelry business, and John C., with his family, live in Ocheyedan, and is engaged in the mercantile business. The other members of the family live on their original claims and all are well-to-do.

As has been said with reference to other townships, some names are no doubt omitted as we did not intend to make a complete directory but more of a record of past events. Baker Township is one of the best in the county.

Harrison Township, which was a part of Baker until a few years ago, was not early settled as other townships were. We believe about the first settler in this township was Mr. Billion, and the place where he lived was known for several years as the Billion Ranch, and is so called now. It was land owned by Rev. Peter Haverman, a Catholic priest, of Troy, New York, who started there a cattle ranch, and sent Mr. Billion out from New York State to run it. From poor management, the enterprise proved a failure. Mr. Haverman was out several times, and is spoken of as a very honorable and conscientious man.

In the north part of the township is quite a settlement of Mennonites. This sect is distinguished by antique simplicity, by their indifference to the great interests of the world, and at the same time their industry and self concentrations make them well-to-do. The main interest in the sect lies not in dogma, but in principle, and as men they are conscientious, law-abiding citizens. They have about thirty members, and hold services every two weeks. They came from Canada to Harrison township. Jesse Bauman came first in 1887, and, his report concerning the country being favorable, others soon followed. They sent out carpenters, who erected buildings for them, and there is a sameness about all their surroundings. Josiah Martin, one of the leaders among his people, has all of Section 10. The Bauman's are also prominent—Jesse, Amos and Elias. Elias is on Section 4, and Jesse and Amos on Section 9. In this north part of the township are also Julius Worm, Louis Clatt, Frank Gregory, John Huehn, Louis Johannes, Daniel Weaver, Daniel Stauffer, John Dunnenworth, George Bryer, Abraham Widner, Jacob Brubaker, Elias Ginrich, Henry Gregory, Elias Reist, Daniel Harley, Fred Kampene, James Reist, Mr. Kesterling.

The May City postoffice is on Section 8, in this township, about the center. This section is owned by a company, and is intended for a townsite. E. S. Robertson is postmaster, and





OCHEYEDAN HOUSE, OCHEYEDAN.



Mr. Robertson's father and two brothers are living there at present. Martin Houcks and August Hess are the village blacksmiths, and John Brendley the shoemaker. An incoming railroad, which is expected, would make May City quite a point. Section 12 is owned by Lon, John and Joseph Chambers. On Section 6 are the Smith brothers, O. J. and A. W.

Among other of the residents there, George and E. L. Krukenburg are on Section 31, Henry Krukenburg is on Section 30, Chris Dorman and John Marsh are on Section 32 and John Isley and Henry Schmoll are on Section 33. Among other of its residents are Ernest Krukenburg, Henry Lager, Henry Groff, Conrad Schmoll, Danied Tyards, W. D. Sauer, John Brochus, Peter Anker, Henry Newkirk, T. Hemmig, George Ryers, Charles Mielke; also Albert Mielke, John Sittler, Martin Fritz; also Peter Anker, David Anker, A. F. Berdine, W. H. Brerver, L. W. Lopp, Gerritt DeBoor, Wm. Eden, Herman Eden, R. E. Ellis, R. C. Fuller, J. C. Herlie, J. W. Wardrip, A. B. Weidman, Daniel Shafer, W. J. Smith, Hugh Starts, Louis and Philip Kesserling, David Steiner, Henry Heimrich, John Kimble, E. T. Willner, Martin Hank, John Huchn. This township was named after President Harrison, and many of its fine farms are attractive and delight the eye. E. C. Roberts, in addition to the postoffice at May City, has also a general stock of goods and his store is well patronized. Emil Hemmig and Fred Tschudin also live in Harrison. T. Hemmig is an old settler for Harrison, and came here six years ago.



## TOWNS IN THE COUNTY.

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### HARRIS.

This is a station on the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern Railroad, on the east side of the county. At present it does not claim to be metropolitan, but expects some time in the future to acquire prominence as one of the towns in the county. It is well located, and when the country around it becomes more settled, the town will grow correspondingly. It has one general store, managed by Rufus Townsend, who is also postmaster, and the store has a good trade. M. B. Smith has a lumber yard; also a harness shop. J. Ryckman runs a coal yard and John Walting is the blacksmith. The station agent is Homer Richards, and Harris has a decorative painter, Frank P. Burley. This about comprises the business interests of Harris, and no doubt the historian ten years from now will be able to make an extensive record, which will come from its future growth.

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### ASHTON.

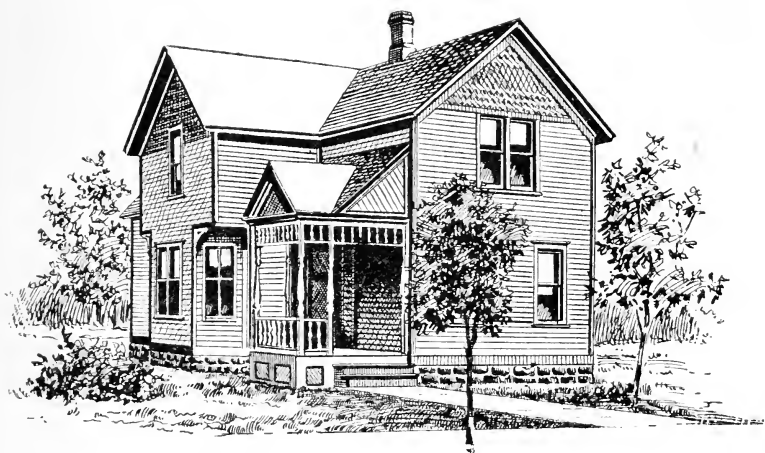
The Town of Ashton was laid out by the Land Department of the Sioux City and St. Paul Railroad Company in 1872. It was first named St. Gilman, but afterwards, in 1882, this name was changed to Ashton. The town is beautifully located, and on the east side of its business portion runs the Otter, a beautiful stream, though not a large one. It is a thrifty town, having tributary to it a scope of country that for productiveness and fertility of soil is unexcelled in the state. The first building on the townsite was placed there by T. J. Shaw in the fall of 1872, and the building still stands there and is now occupied by John Kunnen for a restaurant. Mr. Shaw is the same party who, previous to that time, had a store on Section 32 in Gilman township, and he put up the building now in Ashton before the town was laid out, and when lots were to be had, placed the building on one of them and gave



it a permanent abiding place. Mr. Shaw left Osceola County in 1888, and now resides in Oregon. After Shaw's store, followed a warehouse in 1873, put up by Brown & Roundsville. Mr. Brown resides in Nebraska, and Mr. Roundsville died several years ago. About the same time the warehouse was built, a lumber yard office was put up, and this was used afterwards for various purposes, and, by adding to it, Mr. David Underhill now has it for a residence. Then followed a blacksmith shop, run by Charles Miller, who sold to John Lee, and in 1878 Lee sold out to I. B. Lucas, who still continues the same business. Another store soon followed, a millinery shop, and, in those days of beer and native wine from fruits grown in the state, a saloon. A hotel building was also erected soon after by J. D. Billings, which still stands in Ashton, but which has been improved by large additions, and is now owned by C. W. Freeman and run by Nick Reiter. When Ashton got fairly started, it had two stores, a millinery shop, blacksmith shop, hotel, warehouse, saloon and two residences. Then came the grasshoppers, whose ravages are mentioned elsewhere, and these so discouraged and disheartened the first business men of the town that one by one they "Folded their tents like Arabs, and as silently stole away." The store-keepers sold what they could, and packed up the balance of the stock and departed. The hotel man had no custom and he went, the saloon-keeper had to tend both sides of the bar and do all the drinking himself, the millinery goods were not in demand, no grain came to market, and the exodus was thorough and complete.

In 1879, a writer in the *Gazette*, said the following of St. Gilman: "Last week we spent an hour or two in Gilman. This village is struggling with all its hopes in the future, waiting patiently for a depot, an elevator, an express and telegraph office. A year or two of good crops will bring it into notice, give it more buildings, sidewalks, a mayor and all the paraphernalia of a full-fledged metropolis, until then it must move quietly and contentedly. Its only merchant, F. M. Bashfield, was at his post. He is a gentleman, courteous, social and of much intelligence; is a close dealer and watches every penny, and indeed this is the secret of success. Kit Carson, who is the magistrate, was absent, either figuring on the increase and improvement of stock, or else talking politics. Kit is a host in himself and good company. The portly form of Lucas, the village blacksmith, was seen bending over his work which seemed to be lying all around. The old Shaw store building





RESIDENCE OF DR. W. E. ELY, OCHEYEDAN.



is used for a dwelling and the familiar countenance of its former and original occupant is no longer seen in town. Charley Miller has moved into the country, not far from Gilman, and now follows the plow instead of measuring wood and weighing coal. When the country tributary to Gilman is settled, it will make a snug town and a good business point."

J. D. Billings, now of Sheldon, was the first justice and one of the first school officers. His daughter Mary was the first child born in the town.

In about 1883 business revived there again, stores were opened, the hotel once more had a landlord, and St. Gilman then made another start on the road to wealth and prosperity. About that time Nick Boor opened up there in business, and this had something to do with its new start. The Pattersons also, A. and G. W., gave the town an impetus, and since the change in name, and new parties going in, the town has continued to grow.

Its leading business interests are now represented by: J. H. and C. C. Carmichael, drug store, who came to Ashton in 1892; restaurant by John Kunnen, who commenced business in 1892; H. A. Carson, son of J. W., who opened a photograph gallery this present year; furniture store by F. H. Thompson, established 1891; clothing store, M. Hingtgen, 1891; meat market, Ira L. and P. E. Kennen, 1891; harness shop, N. Klees, 1892; jewelry store, A. L. Hyde, 1892; restaurant, Henry Wheelhouse, 1890; hardware, C. W. Rahe, 1890; livery barn, J. Smith and L. Lamar; blacksmith shop, I. B. Lucas and W. B. Reagan; hotel, N. Reiter; wagon shop, J. W. Clark; general store, Henry Wheelhouse; also general store, H. Ennga, 1892; general store, S. S. Dean and J. A. Hoffman; general store, W. S. and G. L. Queenby, 1892; general store, M. Wermerskirchen, 1890; Nick Boor and W. L. Benjamin have an agricultural house and an elevator; H. S. Grant, farm machinery; C. J. King and L. M. March, blacksmith shop; Frank DeVoss, barber shop; and S. M. Brown, a mechanic, and has charge of the elevator.

The banking interests are represented by A. and G. W. Patterson, with G. W. Patterson in immediate charge.

Ashton's postmaster is J. W. Reagan. It has three church buildings, Catholic, Presbyterian and Methodist. One paper is published there, the *Leader*, by C. A. Charles. It is a bright, five-column quarto, and has large circulation.

Ashton is a live business town and one of general prosperity. It has some very elegant residences, good stores, and



thorough business men, and the town will continue its growth. It is a good grain market and a good place for general trading.

Ashton is situated on Section 15, in Gilman Township; is on the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railway line. It has the usual secret societies and social organizations and its business men are on a solid basis. J. B. McEnany is its physician. It also has a creamery, managed and owned by C. W. Baird and is soon to have another elevator. Altogether Ashton promises to be considerable of a place in the future. Its present municipal officers are:

Mayor .....	Joseph W. Reagan
	W. L. Benjamin.
	C. J. King.
Trustees .....	John Lenn.
	C. W. Rake.
	Peter Wagner.
	P. E. Kiemen.
Recorder .....	J. H. Carmichael.
Marshal .....	E. S. Knowles.

### OCHEYEDAN.

The town is laid out on a part of Section 2, and a part of Section 11, in west Ocheyedan Township. The writer has been unable to ascertain correctly the origin of the word Ocheyedan, and hence will not attempt to account for it.

The Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern Railroad crossed Osceola County in the year 1884. The coming of this road brought into existence the Town of Ocheyedan, and in the fall of 1884 building commenced. The first building put up on the town site was a "shanty," which kind of a building is well understood, though the word itself is becoming obsolete. This was put up by James Wood, and he lived in it and stored his goods there, while a building was being prepared for occupancy. Out of his stock, however, he made some sales, and run a sort of "shanty" trade until he got straightened out in more mercantile condition. This was in the fall of 1884, and at this same time Charles Woodworth had lumber on the ground for a hardware store; also did Wood for a general store, and William Smith for a general store. Woodworth moved into his building first with his stock of hardware, so that this building, which Mr. Woodworth still



occupies, may be said to be the first business house in the town. Wood put his stock also in Woodworth's building temporarily, and as soon as his own was finished moved into that. Mr. Smith got his building finished in October, and put in a general stock. This same fall of 1884 the Kout brothers, Joseph and Dominick, put up a store building and filled it with a general stock of goods. L. B. Boyd also put up a building that fall, in which he opened a general store, and these four general stores, with the hardware, constituted the mercantile business of the town in the winter of 1884-'85. We will add, however, that Dr. C. Teal erected the building now occupied by Ed. Becker as a barber shop, in the fall of 1884, and opened up a drug store, also practiced as a physician. Dr. Teal moved from Ocheyedon a few years ago, and now lives in North Carolina. William Smith sold out a year or so afterwards to D. J. Jones, who carried on a general store until the spring of 1891, when he died. Mrs. Jones continued the business after her husband's death until this present year, when she sold out to Bunker Bros., who now occupy the building with a stock of groceries. Wood sold out to M. J. Young, who carried a general stock, and in the fall of 1891 Young sold out to J. W. Thomas & Son, who now run a general store in the same building. The Kout Bros. sold out building and stock to R. J. O. McGowan, who now occupies the same stand with a general store. The L. B. Boyd building first had a general store, and is now occupied by W. F. Stimpson for a restaurant. In the fall of 1884 also Archibald Oliver put up the livery barn now owned and occupied by E. D. Cleveland. Mr. Oliver was then, and was the first, station agent in Ocheyedon.

There was also erected in the fall of 1884 two warehouses for grain and coal. One was put up by French & Hayward, and the other by D. L. Riley. These business houses, with a few dwellings, was what constituted the town of Ocheyedon until the spring of 1885. There was, however, in 1884 a lumber yard started by D. L. Riley, and run by Fred Wheeler. In the spring of 1885 C. A. and M. A. Tatum erected the building now occupied by A. J. Coulton. Tatum's opened a feed store and butcher shop, and afterwards sold it to Coulton. Peter Graves opened a general store in 1885, and erected the building now occupied by John and Mary Graves. Also the same year John Wilson put up the W. J. Robinson building, now occupied by L. D. and E. P. Johnson. The hotel building, called the Ocheyedon House, was built in





RESIDENCE OF O. B. HARDING, GOEWY TOWNSHIP.



1885 by John Wilson, who run it a few months and was then succeeded by Charles Carnes, and he by H. Runyon. I. N. Daggett soon after purchased the building and run the hotel himself a short time, and was succeeded by J. F. Pfaff. Pfaff was succeeded by S. A. Dove, who bought the property in 1891, and is still owner and landlord. Mr. Dove has recently sold and will move to Missouri.

Ocheyedan celebrated the first year of its existence on the 4th day of July, 1885. It was given out beforehand that a great time was to be had, and the country around looked upon the coming celebration as an event of considerable importance, and it was. People flocked into Ocheyedan in great numbers on that day, and it seemed as if the whole country was there. Archibald Oliver was president of the day and C. A. Tatum, marshal. W. J. Robinson read the declaration of independence, and Henderson, a farmer living south of Ocheyedan, delivered the oration. The music consisted of fife and drum; also playing upon the organ and singing. There was a foot race, sack race and a horse trot. Will Peters won the foot race purse, and in the sack race Joel Rice took first money and Frank Daley second. The Tatum's carried off the honors in the horse race, M. A. taking first money and H. C. second. The contestants in the horse race were M. A. and H. C. Tatum, Broadfoot, Adam Sterling, Smith and Claus Yess. There was considerable excitement over this and the boys were somewhat demonstrative over it, but did not let their angry passions rise to the extent of an open fight, but at times were near to it. The day wound up with a bowery dance; Joseph Hall played the violin and there was other music. The dance lasted all night and towards morning the remaining participants in this first celebration went home to recruit up after this enthusiastic siege.

The drug store building recently occupied by A. E. Smith was built by John Webster and was placed between Cleveland's livery and the railroad track, and it was used there for a saloon. It was built in 1886. In 1887 it was moved to where it now stands. It is now used by T. H. Dravis for a clothing house.

Ocheyedan, as a town location, is unexcelled. It is on a gradual rise from the railroad track, and most of the town is on the elevation. This enables it to have clean streets, and a complete drain for water.

Other buildings followed along in the course of construction, and in 1885 A. V. Randall erected a business house on



the corner of Main Street, which is now used by Walton Brothers for a furniture store. In 1890 C. A. and M. A. Tatum put up a building for livery barn, now occupied by Tatum Brothers for an agricultural house. The elevator, now owned and occupied by A. W. Harris & Co., was placed there in 1885. In 1890 Bowersock Brothers, consisting of Asa and E. Bowersock, bought out D. L. Riley's lumber yard, and are still running the same business. In 1891 John Porter & Son, of Reinbeck, Iowa, started the second lumber yard in Ocheyedan, which is still running, under the management of W. F. Aldred.

The bank building, now occupied by the Ocheyedan Bank, was erected by I. N. Daggett, who sold out to the Northwestern State Bank, of Sibley, and it was then placed in charge of E. Baker, now vice president of the Northwestern State Bank. They sold to the Ocheyedan Savings Bank, of which C. S. McLaury is president, W. M. Smith, vice president, and J. L. McLaury, cashier, under whose management it now is.

The present year, 1892, John Porter & Son also established a bank, which, in connection with their lumber business, is under the management of W. F. Aldred, whose name appears as cashier.

Ocheyedan has grown gradually each year since its first starting. It has never been boomed, but has made its way quietly as the country demanded its growth. This year of 1892 it has pushed ahead considerably. Kout Brothers have erected a very fine business house, which is now occupied by A. E. Smith for a drug store. A. V. Randall has added a business building to Main Street, as has also E. N. Moore. Several elegant dwelling houses have also been erected by C. A. Tatum, W. F. Aldred, Dr. W. E. Ely, Mrs. D. R. Jones, Charles Woodworth and others. In 1891 Asa Bowersock put up a very fine residence house, as also did M. A. Tatum.

In 1889 several of the farmers around established in Ocheyedan a creamery, which is a joint stock corporation. The association was formed in 1889, and the following year buildings were erected and business started. Its present officers are: President, J. C. Moar; secretary, W. E. Ely; treasurer, J. L. McLaury; directors, Dick Wassman, Geo. W. Thomas, W. A. Cooper, Henry Bremer, J. C. Ward.

At the close of last year the secretary, W. E. Ely, published in the local paper the following report:



"The Ocheyedan Creamery has just finished the second season of its existence, and as there is some inquiry concerning its workings and profits, we will endeavor to give a short account of what has been done. Active work commenced about the middle of April and continued until the middle of September, or about five months in all. During that time we have received 526,430 pounds, making 21,435 pounds of butter, or an average of 4.07 pounds per hundred. Our cream wagon has gathered 6,703 inches of cream, making the total amount of butter manufactured 28,138 pounds. For milk we have paid the shareholders at the rate of 55 cents per hundred for May, June and July; 68 cents for August, and 80 cents for September, or a grand total of \$3,098.99, averaging 59 cents per hundred for the season. For gathered cream we paid 13½ cents per inch in May and June, 12½ cents in July, 16¾ cents in August, and 17¾ cents in September; in all \$920,66, or an average of 13¾ cents per inch for the season. All of our butter has been sold in New York at Elgin prices—the gathered cream excepted, that grading lower and bringing from 1 to 3 cents per pound less.

"It has been clearly demonstrated that a creamery pays, and in proportion to the amount of patronage it receives. Four hundred pounds can be manufactured each day as cheap as 100 pounds, and reduces the expense accordingly. When milk can be brought to the creamery in good condition for separating, that system pays better than the gathered cream system, while the latter on the whole is more profitable than the home dairy. But a creamery is like any other business concern, to be successful it must have patronage, and if its own incorporators stand back waiting for it to become a paying concern before they put their shoulder to the wheel, how can they expect outsiders to take any interest or invest any capital in the concern. Two years' work has demonstrated sure success, and if each shareholder does his duty during the coming season I am sure he will find that not only will the creamery relieve his family of the drudgery of butter making, but will pay him more cash than he could possibly make out of his milk himself.

Respectfully,

"W. E. ELY,

*"Secretary."*

Ocheyedan has two church organizations, the Methodist and Congregationalist. The Methodist organization was first completed in the country outside the town before the town started, and for awhile had two buildings, one of them still





DR. B. A. WILDER.



standing and used near Mr. Mowthorpe's place. Judge McCallum, in giving us the history of the building, says that in 1876, or thereabouts, when he was holding down his claim near Ocheyedon, himself and L. G. Ireland, with F. H. Hunt, D. H. Boyd, Wm. Mowthorpe and others concluded that they wanted a sanctuary for worship and some place to go to church. Ireland, McCallum and some others were sort of outsiders and not sound in the faith, and the question arose as to the location, and upon this they were divided. A meeting was held at Mr. Hunt's and the majority sat down completely on any location, except that where a church building now stands, near Mr. Mowthorpe's. The McCallum crowd were bound to have a church anyhow where they wanted it, so they went at it, and inside of three weeks they had a building all ready for occupancy on a corner of Ireland's claim. The other fellows, not to be outdone, also went at it and built their church near Mr. Mowthorpe's, where it now is. One was called grit and the other grace—the McCallum one being grit. After they were erected, however, the brethren dwelt together in unity, and, with the help of Brother Mallory, their spiritual welfare was looked after, and all were satisfied. The McCallum church was moved into Ocheyedon when the town started.

When the building was moved into Ocheyedon, the church pastor then was Rev. R. Hild. He was succeeded by Rev. Keister, he by Rev. J. M. Woolery and then Rev. S. C. Olds, the present pastor. The church building is far too small for the present accommodations and one larger and more spacious will be erected in the near future.

The Congregational society was organized in the spring of 1889. For awhile its exercises consisted of a Sunday school and occasional preaching from some clergyman sent from the state missionary society and this continued until 1890 when Rev. L. R. Fitch became its established pastor and is such now. This society now holds its services in the school house in the upper story, but will at no distant day erect a church building and they are very much in need of one. Rev. Thomas Pell was at one time pastor and is a forcible preacher.

Ocheyedon became an incorporated town fully, upon the election of its first officers in April, 1891. In March of that year, the previous month, the question of incorporation or no incorporation was submitted to the people. Public opinion was about equally divided and a discussion of the question previous to the vote being taken, had warmed the contending



parties into a strong and almost belligerent controversy. Incorporation carried by a few votes and as soon as the conflict was over, the opposers submitted gracefully, and the feeling then was undivided in all interests that would promote the welfare and progress of Ocheyedan. Soon public improvements were entered into, ordinances for the better government of the town, and in promotion of its welfare were passed, and internal improvements became the order of the day. The town's greatest need then was a system of sidewalks and these came along in good time, are now on all streets where business or residences require them. There is an eight-foot walk which adds not only to the convenience of the town, but to its appearance as well. The present town officers were the first officers elected in April, 1891, with one exception, which is that of Mr. Aldred, and he was elected at the election held in the spring of 1892. The present officers are as follows:

Mayor .....	W. E. Ely.
Recorder .....	A. E. Smith.
Treasurer .....	J. L. McLaury.
Assessor .....	R. J. Jones.
Street Commissioner .....	George Rupner.
Marshal .....	George Rupner.
	C. M. Manville.
	S. A. Dove.
Trustees .....	Charles Woodworth
	W. F. Aldred.
	Asa Bowersock.
	C. A. Tatum.

Ocheyedan has one newspaper, published by Mr. Perkins. The paper was started in 1891, and its first issue on 7th day of August. The paper was started by D. A. Perkins, who intended it for his son, George W. Perkins while the material was still in the boxes at the freight office when the boy was drowned in Silver lake, near Lake Park. Perkins, however, under the shadow of this terrible misfortune, proceeded with its publication and after an interval of change it is still published by Mr. Perkins. The paper is five-column quarto and the public spirit of Ocheyedan is well manifested by giving the paper a liberal subscription which they have since the first issue, and its circulation is large and constantly increasing. The town is not rich with secret societies, but a Masonic lodge has a complete organization, with a hall finely furnished in the upper part of the building built by Joseph and Dominick Kout. The



what is called the Ocheyedan Lodge, I. O. G. T., of which C. M. Higley is C. T., and Mary McCallum, secretary. This society meets each week. The first postmaster in Ocheyedan was D. H. Boyd, who was succeeded by A. V. Randall and he by E. N. Moore, the present postmaster.

The town of Ocheyedan is in nearly the center of the eastern part of Osceola County, and hence as a trading point is favorably located. It has a fine farming country around and tributary to it, and its future is exceedingly promising. Everything is peaceable in the town, at the same time full of business activity. Ocheyedan socially is a model town.

Its present most prominent business interests and citizens are as follows:

Elevators—A. W. Harris & Co. (manager, John Harris); A. E. Brown (manager, A. D. Moreland.)

Lumber—Bowersock Brothers; John Porter & Son (manager, W. F. Aldred.)

General Stores—Mary Graves; J. W. Thomas & Son; Bunker Brothers; R. J. O. McGowan.

Banks—Ocheyedan Bank; John Porter & Son.

Drug Store—A. E. Smith.

Hardware—Charles Woodworth.

Hotel—S. A. Dove.

Restaurant—W. F. Stimpson.

Meat Market—C. Bowersock.

Feed Store—A. J. Coulton.

Livery Barn—E. D. Cleaveland.

Agricultural House—Tatum Bros.; Frank Cleaveland; Bowersock Bros.

Harness Shop—C. A. Tatum & Son.

Hat Millinery—E. P. Johnson.

Barber—Ed Becker.

Contractors and Builders—Zeug Bros.; Fred Wheeler; Buchman; Kout Bros.; T. M. Spencer; McLagen

Blacksmith—C. A. Spencer; Fred Meyer.

Postman—E. N. Moore.

Buyers—C. M. Manville; Bowersock Bros.

Fire—Walton Bros.

Printer—Ocheyedan Press.

Postmaster—E. N. Moore.

Physician—W. E. Ely.

Teacher—D. A. W. Perkins.

Notary—Elmer Spencer.





JAMES T. BARCLAY.



Clothing Store—T. H. Dravis.

Well Borer—C. R. Boyd.

Stockmen—C. A. Tatum; David Eicher.

Clergymen—S. C. Olds; L. R. Fitch.

Station Agent—O. L. Beck.

Assistant Station Agent—A. O. Beck.

Mr. T. R. Stewart, formerly in the land business here, is now with John Porter & Son; C. M. Higley, formerly of Sheldon, is in the Ocheyedan Bank, and Frank Bumgardner is engaged in general farming and stock dealing.

The interests of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern in its track repairs are represented by John Wallace and P. Cramer.

Eustace Manville is also in business here, and the creamery is under the management of Peter Jensen. A. V. Randall has a crockery store and Mr. A. Arend has a shoe store. The Zeug Brothers have a building as a work shop and in which is a public hall. Daniel Weaver, though living in the country, is the Ocheyedan jeweler.

The prospect is that Ocheyedan will continue to have a substantial growth and will be a town of some importance.

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## SIBLEY.

The Sibley townsite is situated on section 13, in East Holman township. It was laid out by the land department of the Sioux City and St. Paul Railroad Company, in 1872, and subsequent additions have been made, which are Chase's addition and East Sibley addition—the first by R. J. Chase and the last by several different parties, among whom are Jacob Brooks, H. S. Brown, Mrs. C. I. Hill, Wilbern Brothers, G. W. Meader and others. The first building erected on what is now the townsite was by F. M. Robinson, in the fall of 1871. The town was first named Cleghorn, and afterwards changed to Sibley, named after Gen. H. H. Sibley, of St. Paul. The Robinson building was on the shack order, and in which John L. Robinson, with his son Frank, lived during the winter of 1871 and 1872; also, W. H. Rogers put up a store building, and this, with the Robinson building, constituted the town of Sibley that first winter. In the spring of 1872 a fellow by the name of Ward had a small building near Roger's store, and in which he kept a saloon. These buildings, on the start, were on what is Tenth street, the street where the old Pioneer hotel



building now stands, and this point, then, was expected to be the centre of business, and was, until the fire hereafter mentioned, when the town formed another location north of that, and where the business part of the town now is. Just before the railroad reached the townsite, D. L. McCausland hauled lumber from Mountain Lake, Minn., and put up a residence on the townsite, and this was the first residence building. After the road had been built into Sibley, in June, 1872, J. T. Barclay obtained lumber out of the first brought in, and immediately put up a residence, which he still occupies with his family. After McCausland got his building up he used it for a boarding house, and J. F. Glover, John Hawxshurst, with many others, were his boarders. The house was two-story, and in the hurry of its erection stairs were neglected, so that cleats were nailed on the studding for steps to get up and down. All who have had experiences as pioneers know how its out-door life, its expectations, and all its ambitious surroundings, bring health to the cheek and puts one in the best of physical condition; and the result of it all, an enormous appetite. McCausland's boarders became so ravenous, so anxious for their meals, and in such extraordinary quantities, that it kept Mc on the go to keep up with the demand. It is a wonder that it hadn't broke Mc up in business, for no doubt there were some who never missed a meal and who never paid a cent.

The town did not get fairly started until in the summer of 1872, after the Sioux City and St. Paul Railroad, now the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha, reached the town site, which was June 1, 1872. Soon as the road-bed was in shape for hauling, lumber came in, and the first sales made were by Levi Shell, who then established a lumber yard, and has continued in the business since, and is still here. Quite a number of business houses and residences were erected during that year; also the court house and school house. The Sibley Hotel was also built that year, and in the Sibley Hotel barn, then just completed, was held the exercises on the Fourth day of July, which was the first celebration had on the town site. L. S. Fawcett, of Sioux City, delivered the oration, and John H. Douglass was captain of the whangdoodles. This day is remembered by the old settlers as a very cold one, making an overcoat quite comfortable. Sibley, in 1872, had the usual air and appearance of Western towns in their first starting. These are generally characterized by a feeling of independence and a freedom to act unrestrained by the settled ways of



society and of social and religious organizations. It took the balance of that year (1872) for the men to get squared around with buildings for business and residences for their families. In 1873 the substantial conditions of society prevailed in Sibley and the usual town societies came into existence. In March, 1873, the town was out of coal owing to the snow blockade, and people burned what they could get hold of until the blockade was lifted. E. L. Kinney, who died March 2, 1875, was the first landlord at the Sibley Hotel, and he is remembered by old settlers not only as a first-class landlord, but as one of the best of men.

The I. O. O. F. lodge was started in May, 1873, and among its first officers were: W. W. Cram, treasurer; J. T. Barclay, R. S. N. G., and J. H. Douglass, R. S. S.

In June of that year there was considerable rain, and the mud was so deep that lumber was rafted down the Otter to build bridges at Doon.

Some of the business men at Sibley then who are still here are Brown & Chambers, Robert Richardson, P. A. Cajacob, D. L. McCausland, J. T. Barclay, J. F. Glover, W. C. Grant, H. L. Emmert, Levi Shell, S. H. Westcott, David Littlechild, S. S. Parker, C. M. Mandeville, George Carew, W. R. Lawrence, Augustus O'Neill, A. W. Mitchell, W. J. Miller, J. P. Hawxshurst.

In May, 1873, David Littlechild purchased a photograph gallery, and in his announcement said to the ladies: "Come and secure the shadow ere the substance fades." This was in the days of Dave's youth and modesty, when he was content with the shadow, but since then, in his increasing years of bachelorhood, he has been looking for the substance.

David Littlechild was also in the livery business in 1872. This business required considerable driving, and Dave was more than once out in a blizzard when his life was in danger. In driving once from Spirit Lake to Sibley, a fearful snow storm overtook him; the weather was extremely cold, and he was unable to tell exactly where he was or where he could find shelter. Fortunately, he was near the house of D. H. Boyd, near Ocheyedan, and saw it in a lull of the storm, and remained there until the blizzard was over.

A. W. Mitchell established the first genuine furniture store, J. A. Cole was about the first druggist, and L. Garner about the first harness shop.

The substantial lawyers, at that time, were J. T. Barclay, Hugh Jordan, J. F. Glover and R. J. Chase. Mr. Barclay





C. W. BENSON.



retired from the practice several years ago for other business interests. Hugh Jordan died in 1887, and R. J. Chase moved to Sioux City in November, 1874, where he is still in practice. Mr. Chase purchased eighty acres on the north side of Sibley, and laid out an addition, which now is well settled with fine residences. The writer knew Hugh Jordan well, and was interested with him in several litigated cases. He was a good lawyer, a prince of good fellows, a good citizen, and indulgent to his family and kind to all. D. D. McCallum studied law with Mr. Jordan, and was admitted in 1878.

Wilbern Brothers were first in the agricultural implement business, and in the spring of 1873 retired from that, and opened a general store.

In 1873, Robert Richardson had a meat market, and P. A. Cajacob also opened up in the same business in the spring. Mr. Richardson started in 1872.

July 4th of that year, 1873, the people of Sibley had a celebration, which was largely attended. C. I. Hill was president of the day; L. G. Ireland, marshal. Mr. Jordan read the Declaration, and J. F. Glover delivered the oration. Porter P. Peck and C. I. Hill were on the finance committee, and, having realized quite an amount on paper, they expended considerable of their own money, and at last had to foot many of the bills. They came out in an article in the paper afterwards and roasted the delinquents severely. They forgot the old admonition that the time to take up a subscription is when the coffin is being lowered into the grave, as waiting after the funeral is over is a dangerous chancing of contribution.

Mr. Peck came to Sibley in 1872, and was for a while in business there under the firm name of Wetherell, Peck & Co. He is now a capitalist in Sioux Falls, and is mayor of the city.

In July, 1873, a severe wind storm swept over Sibley, scattering lumber, blowing down a few barns, and carrying away the store signs.

Charles Armbright was Sibley's first barber, and he was also at that time leader of the Sibley band.

A military company, called the Osceola County Guards, was organized in 1873, with Robert Stamm orderly.

The Methodist Episcopal Church was dedicated December 18, 1874. The services were conducted by Rev. R. H. Webb, assisted by Rev. John Webb. There was an indebtedness of \$400, and this was raised at the dedication. The Congregational Church was dedicated November 29, 1874, the services conducted by W. L. Colman.



July 4, 1874, was also celebrated. The president of the day was C. I. Hill, H. Jordan delivered the oration, J. F. Glover read the Declaration, and C. M. Bailey was marshal.

On the 7th day of November, 1873, Sibley was visited by fire. It started in the rear of Barber & Lawrence's drug store, and the cause of it was either from a stove in the back part of the building or by an incendiary. The losses, as then estimated, were: Barber & Lawrence, \$900; A. H. Clark, groceries, \$600; H. C. Kellogg, store, \$1,200; Kelley & Walrath, dry goods, \$1,244; J. A. Cole, drugs, \$2,000; Wilbern Bros., stock, \$1,100. This fire was a hard blow on Sibley then, but most of the losers soon rebuilt and were soon in business again.

C. L. Davidson, one of the prominent men of the Northwest, who was an early settler in Sibley, now resides in Sioux County. W. L. Parker established himself in the drug business at Sibley in 1874. D. L. Riley, now at Iowa Falls, put in a grain warehouse in 1872; also a lumber yard with W. C. Grant. D. M. Shuck was also in the lumber business.

Sibley was incorporated as a town in the spring of 1876. Its first officers were:

Mayor—D. L. Riley.

Trustees—C. L. Norton, C. E. Brown, D. Cramer, H. S. Brown, H. L. Emmert.

Recorder—George S. Murphy.

The first banking house was started by H. L. Emmert and C. I. Hill in 1873. Mr. Hill retired in 1874.

C. I. Hill was one of the early settlers in Sibley, and died a few years ago. He was a man of sterling integrity, of much public spirit, and he was a man much missed by the people of Sibley when he died. His widow still resides here.

Rev. W. W. Mallory, a Methodist preacher, here in the seventies, was a man of strong, vigorous expression, yet of sincere convictions and an upright life.

On the 21st day of December, 1878, John L. Robinson celebrated his golden wedding. Mr. Robinson and his wife are still living at Sibley.

Dr. J. M. Jenkins was Sibley's first physician, in 1871, though Dr. Gurney, holding down a claim near here, was also in practice. Dr. Churchill was also here in 1871, and Dr. Mellin in 1872.

The *Sibley Gazette* was started in July, 1872, by L. A. Barker. In May, 1873, he sold to Riley & Brown, who a few months after sold to E. H. Craig and John F. Glover. Mr.



John Hawxshurst then succeeded Mr. Craig, and with Mr. Glover published the paper. Mr. Glover then retired, and Mr. Hawxshurst was sole proprietor. It was then Edwards & Reed, then Reed & Glover, then Gloyer, then Glover & Hawxshurst, then George Carew. Afterwards it was Perkins & Foster; then the paper returned to Mr. Carew again, who retained its ownership until in 1891, when the paper was sold to Ward & Co., who in turn sold to the Gazette Publishing Company, who are its present proprietors, under the management of J. A. Flower. It is the first paper published in the county, and is Republican in politics.

In 1878, Sibley had seventy scholars in its school—forty-four in the higher department and sixteen in the primary.

The Sibley *Tribune* was started by Charles E. Crossly; then Dennis bought in, and in 1884 W. P. Webster bought Crossly out. In November, 1890, G. L. Caswell purchased Dennis' interest, so that the present proprietors and publishers are W. P. Webster and G. L. Caswell, under the firm name of Webster & Caswell. It is a six column quarto, and is a Democratic paper, but not extremely partizan.

There is also published the Sibley *Saber*, representing the order of Sons of Veterans. A. W. McCallum is editor-in-chief, and George A. Romey, general manager.

The history of Sibley would be incomplete without a mention of Hon. Stephen Miller, ex-governor of Minnesota and who was, when Sibley started, representing the land department of the Sioux City and St. Paul Railroad Company, and had personal control of the townsites along the line of the road in northwest Iowa. He was an intellectual, honest, noble man. His occasional visits to the different towns always found the old settlers ready to greet him warmly, and he was highly respected by all, and died in 1880. He is buried at Worthington, Minn. It would also be incomplete without a mention of Gen. J. W. Bishop, who was then manager of the above named railroad and for whom any fulsome praise is unnecessary, as his standing, his character, and his business integrity, are too well known and too well remembered by all of us of the early days. The business men of Sibley, early in the seventies, had a hard time of it, as well as did the homesteaders. The settlers were poor, generally so by reason of being poor when they came here, and then by grasshoppers suffered a failure of crops afterwards. It was hard to refuse them credit altogether, and a great many were carried along on book account, expecting each year to realize a harvest.





KER D. DUNLOP.



Those of the settlers who staid here were, after a while, able to meet their obligations, while others got out of the country in the darkness of night, driven to desperation in their condition of poverty and debt, and of course the business men of Sibley in all such cases were losers. Others went away in broad daylight, after informing their creditors of their inability to pay, and making promises for the future. Many of these, as the years went by and the debt became ancient, were after a while indifferent, and, even with the best of intentions originally, never paid. The merchants, of course, were the losers.

Sibley in its present condition is a town of about fifteen hundred inhabitants. It is the abode of considerable wealth, is a very fine business point, and of high social character. It has the best of educational facilities, is a peaceable town, has very fine residences and commanding brick business houses.

Of its banks, are the First National, capital \$50,000; C. E. Brown, president; H. L. Emmert, cashier; directors, L. Shell, R. S. Hall, N. Boor, C. E. Brown, H. L. Emmert.

There is also the Northwestern State Bank. It has a capital of \$75,000, and its last quarterly statement shows cash deposits amounting to \$264,695.62. J. W. Orde is president, E. Baker, vice-president, L. Dawn, cashier.

#### IOWA LAND COMPANY (LIMITED.)

This company was organized early in the eighties, principally by the Close Bros., who several years ago left the county and ceased to operate in Northwest Iowa. Its business here is now managed by C. W. Benson and Ker. D. Dunlop, both of whom are men of the highest business integrity and gentlemen in every sense of the word. This company, without question, has advanced the business interests of the town and the settlement of the county. They have opened up farms, brought settlers in, and given opportunities to men without means to work and raise crops and become land owners themselves. During their business career here they have foreclosed only one mortgage, and this was for the purpose of settling title, in which the mortgagee himself had an interest. They have erected substantial brick buildings in the town, and their investments here have been a benefit to all as well as profitable to themselves. They control a large number of acres of land, both improved and unimproved. John H. Douglas is connected with this land company in certain departments of its business.



## J. T. BARCLAY.

This gentleman, formerly a lawyer, now is principally engaged in real estate. He issues each month a land journal, and in his August number says: "The town is well supplied with business houses, newspapers, flouring mills and elevators, and is now eager to secure manufactories of all kinds. Such a growing town, in the midst of an elegant farming country, is bound to make land and farms near it very valuable in a short time." Mr. Barclay handles land principally with his own capital, buys and sells, and his continued operations through grasshopper times, and up to the present, have helped largely the settlement of the county. We quote somewhat from his land journal as to other business interests in Sibley.

## M. M. TRAINER

is Sibley's efficient and popular dentist. Mr. Trainer thoroughly understands his business, and is among the most prominent dentists in the Northwest.

## T. H. DRAVIS,

the "Square-Dealing Clothier," has one of the finest stocks of exclusive clothing and gent's furnishing goods to be found in the West.

## WILLIAM COTTRILL

is one of Sibley's most extensive harness dealers.

## J. W. KAYE

is an efficient and accurate abstracter, and whose office is with Lawyer O. J. Clark.

## C. A. SANDERS

is the popular caterer in the City Bakery and Restaurant, on the south side of Ninth Street.

## LEONARD &amp; CARMICHAEL,

dealers in lumber, wood and coal, are one of the largest firms in this line in the Northwest.

## D. L. M'CAUSLAND

is in the insurance and loan business, and, as will be noticed elsewhere, is one of the first settlers and was first County Recorder.



JOE GATES,

the boot and shoe man, is located just west of the post-office.

G. F. BRAND

conducts what he calls the "Palace Grocery" in the Lansing & Brown building.

JOHN DE BOOS

is proprietor of the Third Avenue hardware store.

HEIM, THE PHOTOIST,

has the only photograph gallery in Sibley.

J. C. BRICKNER

is a popular grocer, and does a good trade. His picture will be found on another page.

WILLIAM RIDDLEBARGER

is proprietor of the Bargain Store.

MRS. KNIGHT

conducts a fashionable millinery store through her assistant here, Mrs. Evans.

J. B. CAJACOB

conducts the harness shop on the west end of Ninth street.

A. BUCHMAN & SON

are proprietors of a grocery store on Third avenue.

V. B. GUTHRIE

has a very fine barber shop under the Northwestern State Bank. He is assisted by M. L. Workheiser.

ARMIN & SHELL

have an extensive lumber yard. Mr. Shell was on the ground, as elsewhere stated, in 1872.

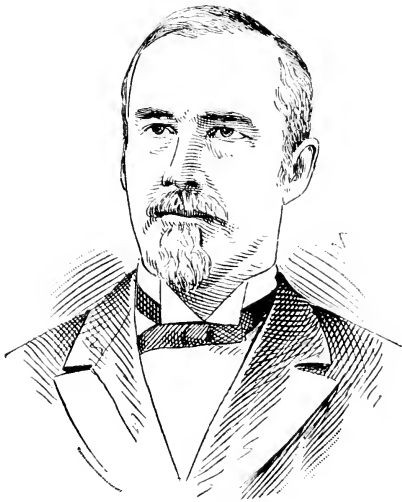
J. WEBBER

is proprietor of Central meat market.

LAMME & M'KENNA.

These young men are successors of Grant & Milner. They handle agricultural implements.





R. J. CHASE.



## CIGAR FACTORY.

This has just been started by Nic Koerting, of Le Mars.

## WM. SMITH

is proprietor of a new restaurant and boarding house on Ninth street.

## NIC KIMMLINGER

is Sibley's merchant tailor.

## J. BROOKS,

who is one of the early settlers, has a flour and feed store.

## A. ROMNEY

has a general store next door to the Osceola House. Mr. Romney is an old settler in the county, as our readers have already noticed.

## W. R. LAWRENCE

operates a drug store and grocery on the north side of Ninth street. He is an old resident of Sibley and Osceola County.

## ROBERT RICHARDSON

has a butcher shop, and we notice in the 1873 Sibley paper that the same Robert had a butcher shop then.

## W. L. PARKER

has a drug store, and erected the building he occupies, a picture of which is in this book, in 1891. Mr. Parker is one of the early settlers.

## WALTON BROTHERS

have a very extensive furniture store in the Academy of Music block. These are E. Walton and H. E. Walton.

## THE SIBLEY HOTEL.

Sibley hotels are fully up to the demands of the town. The Sibley Hotel, conducted by H. L. Leland, is located near the Omaha depot.

## THE OSCEOLA HOUSE

is located on the north side of Ninth Street, in the business center of the town. It is conducted by John Hickok, and managed by Hickok Brothers.



## J. B. LENT

is dealing entirely in farming machinery of all kinds.

## ECKERMAN BROTHERS.

This firm are successors to Davidson & Eckerman in the implement business.

## J. B. GREY

has in full operation one of the best creameries in the State. The output of his institution the past year ranks among the highest of any in the Northwest.

## PEAVY &amp; CO.

One of this company's elevators is located at Sibley. J. T. Grow is their manager at this place.

## B. MILLER

is city drayman and transfer man.

## H. E. PERRY,

mail and express transfer man, and general delivery.

## F. E. CRAM

is bridge builder and house mover. Also agent for the Austin steel reversible road machines and well drills.

## J. L. DURFEE

delivers milk at Sibley houses every day.

## MRS. KENNY

conducts classes in instrumental music in Sibley.

## MRS. WILDER

has a large class in vocal and instrumental music.

## MISS GRACE CAMPBELL

conducts classes in instrumental music in Sibley, Ashton, and Bigelow, Minn.

## E. F. BEAUMONT

is Sibley's artistic wielder of the brush, and a professional paper hanger.



## SIBLEY MARBLE WORKS.

M. J. North looks after the monument business.

## TOBEY BROS.

are dealers in agricultural implements and farm supplies.

## L. D. BARNES

conducts a tin shop and deals in small hardware in the building next to Webber's meat market.

## B. A. WILDER,

physician and surgeon, has had forty-two years' experience in homœopathic methods.

## H. NEILL,

is Sibley's oldest physician and surgeon.

## MRS. HAHN—MILLINERY.

She keeps hats, bonnets, hoods, ribbons, tips, bridal wreaths, China silks, etc.

## F. A. HOWARD

is an extensive dealer in all kinds of school furniture.

## LAWYERS.

The lawyers of Sibley are C. M. Brooks, D. D. McCullum, O. J. Clark, G. W. Lister and John F. Glover. Mr. Glover is the oldest in point of residence, and Mr. McCullum also does an extensive pension business. Mr. Lister is County Attorney. Mr. Clark has been in Sibley about ten years. Mr. McCullum served a term as Circuit Judge in that judicial district, and is mentioned elsewhere as an old resident. The bar is well represented and Sibley's lawyers are efficient and able practitioners.

## LONG &amp; SCHLEGEL

are land, loan and insurance agents, south side of Ninth street.

## JOHN A. FLOWER

is county surveyor and also manager of the *Sibley Gazette*.

## LEISCH &amp; BRODT.

A. Leisch and C. H. Brodt are the oldest draymen in the city.





JOHN ROBERTSON.



## A. W. MITCHELL

is a milk dealer. Mr. Mitchell is spoken of elsewhere as one of the early settlers.

## G. W. MEADER

has an extensive hardware store, and elsewhere in this book is a picture of his building.

## LIVERY STABLES.

These are represented by Littlechild Bros. and Joe Gill.

## W. H. STEWART.

Mr. Stewart is veterinary surgeon.

## C. W. LOWRY,

proprietor of the Sibley Steam Laundry.

## D. F. CAUGHEY,

is proprietor of City Laundry.

## CLINT HUDSON

is handling the Dustless grain and grass seed cleaner and separator.

## HENRY NEWELL

is the efficient young manager of the business of the Chicago, St. Paul, Milwaukee & Omaha Railway at this station.

## GEO. W. BAXTER

is the good natured gentleman who attends to the wants of the patrons of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railway. He is assisted by C. A. Thompson.

Sibley is having something of a boom in fine residences this year. A. W. Harris, grain dealer, has erected a large house of modern architecture. A Shapley, a retired farmer, has the foundation in for a large and commodious dwelling in which he proposes to take life easy for the remainder of his days. Geo. Carew, the veteran newspaper man, is comfortably situated in a large, well built residence. Mrs. C. I. Hill has a fine residence just completed which is an ornament to the city. There are several smaller residences which have been constructed this spring.

Among its other business men are



## W. B. STEVENS.

A picture of this gentleman and his residence will be found elsewhere in this book. He has an extensive drug store; also a line of jewelry and hardware.

## SIBLEY ROLLER MILLS.

Sibley boasts of the best and most complete roller flouring mills in the State, with a capacity of seventy-five barrels per day. It is rushed with business every hour. Its makes of flour are considered equal to those of any mills in the country, and their field of trade extends to England. J. W. Orde and G. B. Gurney appear as its proprietors, with Charles Himes miller, and Guy P. Elliott as an interested party, and also M. A. Harbord.

## BLOTCKY BROTHERS

have dry goods, clothing, groceries, etc.

## HINLKEY &amp; TAYLOR

have a general store. Mr. Taylor is manager, and his picture is elsewhere in this book.

## E. F. ROBINSON

is the proprietor of the Postoffice book and news store.

## BROWN &amp; CHAMBERS.

This firm has been spoken of elsewhere as on the ground at an early day. In 1890 they erected a brick building at a cost of \$15,000, a picture of which is on another page. They carry a stock of general merchandise.

## IRA BRUNSON

is engaged in the general land business.

## WILLIAM PROPER,

one of the pioneers, is a resident of Sibley.

## DANIEL MAHONEY

is a resident, and is road-master on the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern Railroad.

## JACK HANNA,

one of the old residents, is now in the land business.



## JOHN SCHESTAG

is boot and shoe maker and repairer.

## GUS O'NEIL,

paper hanger and painter, kalsominer and plasterer.

Others of Sibley's business and professional men are as follows:

Brand & Suter, contractors and builders.

A. M. Mastick, wagon maker.

A. M. Culver, carpenter and builder.

Ed. Garland, blacksmith.

S. J. Cram, carpenter and builder.

A. L. Blackmore, blacksmith.

H. C. Mory, carpenter and builder.

J. Grant, blacksmith.

C. H. Manderville, carpenter.

J. W. Flint, plasterer and mason.

H. G. Upp, carpenter and mechanic.

Charles Anderson, plasterer.

Joe Hillerns, blacksmith.

N. H. Brand, carpenter.

T. W. Turk, painter and decorator.

## SCHOOLS.

Sibley has an elegant High School building with eight rooms. The teachers are all the best that can be had, which makes the schools very thorough. A large number of scholars from other places attend here.

## CHURCHES.

Sibley has six church societies and five fine buildings. The Catholic, Methodist, Congregational, Baptist, Episcopal and German Evangelical. All support good ministers and have a large attendance.

## CIVIC SOCIETIES.

Sibley has numerous fraternal orders and all in a prosperous, healthy condition. They consist of the Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Grand Army of the Republic, Sons of Veterans, Modern Woodmen, Order of the Eastern Star, Daughters of Rebecca, W. R. C., L. A. S., W. C. T. U., I. O. G. T. The Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, G. A. R., and Good Templars all have halls of their own.





H. C. WEBB.



## E. J. FAIRBROTHER

is a pioneer, and is an active, intelligent gentleman, eighty-one years of age.

## S. A. COLBURN

is selling sewing machines.

## F. C. ALMONT AND A. SCHMITS

have established wagon and carriage works, with paint shop attachment.

## GEORGE T. VOORHEES AND H. C. WEBB

are engaged extensively in the land business. The pictures of both of these gentlemen are in the book.

## W. J. MILLER

is in the land and loan business. He is one of the early settlers.

## JOHN P. HAWXSHURST

is doing abstracting and real estate work. Mr. Hawxshurst figures in the early history of the county.

## H. E. THAYER

came to Sibley in 1892, from O'Brien County. He is engaged in the real estate business with J. T. Barclay.

## DR. CRAWHALL

is established over Brown & Chambers' store.

The Sibley municipal officers are as follows:

Mayor—J. F. Glover.

Recorder—W. P. Webster.

Treasurer—J. Fred Mattert.

Marshal—John Morrow.

Councilmen—G. O. Learned, E. Walton, C. E. Brown, A. Romey, J. T. Barclay, John De Boos.

Street Commissioner—R. L. Norris.

Assessor—John Townsend.

Sibley has two railroads, the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha, which crosses the townsite north and south, and the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern, which crosses east and west.

A picture of J. C. Trainer appears elsewhere in the book.



This gentleman was for several years principal of the public schools in Sibley, and left an impression of thorough scholarship and the best of school training upon all who came under his instruction or in contact with him. He died a few years ago, and his death caused a feeling of sadness in the entire community.

#### WILBERN BROTHERS.

These gentlemen are engaged extensively in business, principally in real estate. They will be remembered from reading elsewhere as early settlers in the town.

So far as the writer can gather from investigation and inquiry, the foregoing comprise the business interests of Sibley. If any have been omitted it is unintentional.

The churches in Sibley are the following :

#### CONGREGATIONAL.

Services every Sunday morning at 10:30 and evening at 8 o'clock. Sabbath school immediately after the morning services. Prayer meeting on Thursday evening. Rev. P. B. West, pastor.

#### METHODIST EPISCOPAL.

Services every Sunday morning and evening. Sabbath school at 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon. Prayer meeting every Thursday evening. Rev. C. Artman, pastor.

#### BAPTIST.

Services every Sunday morning and evening in the church. Sabbath school from 12 to 1 o'clock p. m. Prayer meeting every Thursday evening. Rev. R. Bradshaw, pastor.

#### ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Located on the corner of Eighth street and Sixth avenue. Services each Sunday. J. W. Orde officiating as minister.

#### ST. MARY'S CHURCH OF SIBLEY.

Services each alternate Sunday. Father Dollard, pastor. Sibley is having a gradual growth. Some new building seems to be in process of erection all the time, and electric lights and water works will soon be the order of the day.



## CHAPTER XXII.

Since writing the preceding chapters in this book there has come under the writer's observation an article written by some clever writer in 1876 on the history of Viola township, and, although it may be somewhat on the order of repetition, I will here reproduce it. We think it was written by Peter Shaw:

"VIOLA TOWNSHIP, December 2, 1876.—In accordance with the proclamation of Samuel J. Kirkwood, the Governor of Iowa for 1876, the Centennial year, the one hundredth anniversary of America, that the several township clerks of each county be requested to write a sketch or history of their townships, though I am not much skilled in writing history or anything that would be of much interest to the people, I will endeavor to write something.

"This township was first settled A. D. 1871. The first settlers, or rather the pioneer settlers as we term them, were as follows: C. C. Collison, John Smith, J. F. Van Emburgh, H. W. Tinkum, G. W. Ketchum, J. T. Sage, John Stamm, Hugh and Oren Jones, W. H. Gates, and Mrs. Beeman, Mrs. Jane Smith and Miss Carrie Smith. These comprise the pioneers. C. C. Collison, John Smith and John Stamm were the first. C. C. Collison built the first house that was built in the township. There was considerable breaking done that year, and some sod corn raised and a few potatoes. The settlers worked at a great disadvantage in building, as there was no timber within fifteen or twenty miles and no lumber within fifty miles, till late in the fall the cars came as far as Worthington, a distance of eighteen miles, the St. Paul Railroad being completed no further. So most of the first settlers built sod houses to live in, which made very comfortable houses for the homesteaders of Viola. But they had a pretty severe winter to go through. They had their wood to haul from fifteen to twenty miles, which made snug work to keep warm, as they had not learned to burn hay at that time.

"Mr. Beeman was frozen to death. He got caught out in a blizzard on his way home from the Big Rock River, where he had been after a load of corn. He left a wife and several children to provide for themselves in the dead of winter in the wilds of Osceola. Though the pioneers came out





A. H. LYMAN.



in the spring fat and smoking, for their houses were mostly covered over with snow, as the snow fell very deep that winter.

"The settlers of A. D. 1872, were as follows: Peter Shaw, John H. Douglass, N. I. Wetmore, S. Ford, Abram Shapley, John Hart, M. D. Hadsell, C. C. Hadsell, E. Headley, C. C. Ogan, E. S. Bennett, C. G. Bennett, William Rubow, A. Averill, D. Averill, O. Averill, A. B. Graves, E. Mulmex, S. Smith, E. Smith, John Tann, W. M. Barnard, J. Blair, J. S. Patterson, George Carew, L. Clark, G. S. Downend, D. B. Wood, E. Nulton, J. Farren, H. Graham, T. W. Graves, H. Jordan, L. McConnell, P. L. Piesley, Levi Shell, C. T. Torrey, P. Wilcox, M. Winchester, J. F. Ransom, A. Van Blockham. These were the settlers of '72. But the settlers of '72 had great advantages over the settlers of '71. The St. Paul Railroad being completed to Sibley in the early part of June, lumber and wood were within three to eight miles, and the settlers went right to work and built their several shanties, and then proceeded to break and plant sod corn and potatoes and gardens, and as it was a fine growing season, they had fine crops for sod crops. Some rented land that had been broken the year before, and had an excellent crop from it. I raised 206 bushels of wheat off of nine and one-half acres of late breaking that season. Most of the settlers that year raised their vegetables and feed for their teams, but most of them had their meat and flour to buy till the next fall.

"Viola Township was organized in the fall of 1872, and held its first election in John H. Douglass' shanty. The following township officers were elected: Peter Shaw, township clerk; M. D. Hadsell and John Smith, justices of the peace; Jackson Blair, assessor; T. J. Stage, C. C. Hadsell, C. G. Bennett, trustees; C. C. Ogan and John Stamm, constables; Hugh Jones, road supervisor; U. S. Grant, president of the United States, re-elected; John H. Douglass, sheriff of Osceola County, Iowa. The township polled thirty-six votes, but part of the officers went away that winter and left their offices vacant. The following persons were appointed to fill vacancies: W. H. Gates and David Wood, trustees; N. I. Wetmore, assessor; John Hart, road supervisor; Abram Shapley, justice of the peace; Mr. Shapley did not qualify.

"The first blacksmith shop was erected by J. F. Van Emburgh in 1871, and in 1872 Abram Shapley built another shop.

"The first school house was erected in the summer of 1872 on the southwest quarter of Section 25, and called the



Gates School House, and Miss Carrie Smith was the first teacher. She taught a term of six months. The first half of the term was taught in one part of C. C. Collison's house, and three months in the Gates School House. The next two school houses were built in the spring of 1875, one on the northwest corner of Section 20, the other one on the northeast quarter of Section 32. The first school directors were M. D. Hadsell, N. I. Wetmore and D. B. Wood.

"The first Sabbath school was organized in the summer of 1871 and held at H. W. Tinkham's, and has been held every summer in different parts of the township. In the summer of 1875 the Sunday school officers were all lady officers, with Mrs. Ripley as superintendent.

"The first church society was organized by Brother Mallory, of Sibley, in the winter of 1875 and 1876, at the Greaves School House, but meetings had been held by different denominations. Since the summer of 1872, Revs. B. A. Dean, Brashears, Webb, Lowrie and several others have held regular appointments here. G. W. Ketchum's sod house was used for the first meeting house, till the Gates School House was built.

"The first white child born in the township was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Nims, in June, 1871, and was the first child born in the county, but it only lived to the age of 18 months.

"The deaths have been but few. The first was Mr. Beman, who was frozen to death in Lyon county in the winter of 1871 and 1872, in a blizzard, some time in February, while on his way home from the Big Rock, where he had been after a load of corn. The next was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nims. The next was Mrs. Jennings, the daughter of Mrs. Abram Shapley, who died very suddenly at Mr. G. S. Downend's with heart disease. The next was Mr. Wrightmire, though a resident of Minnesota. The next was Mrs. C. Collison, died in March, 1876. The next was Mrs. Eliza J. Smith, died in April, 1876. Mrs. Collison and Mrs. Smith died but a month apart, and came into the county together in 1872, and lived near neighbors and were highly esteemed by all who knew them. Mrs. Collison left a large family of small children. Mrs. Smith was the mother of John, Samuel, Edwin and Carrie Smith. She took a homestead when she came, and had lived within a few weeks of her five years on the homestead.

"The first married couple was Mr. John Tann to Miss



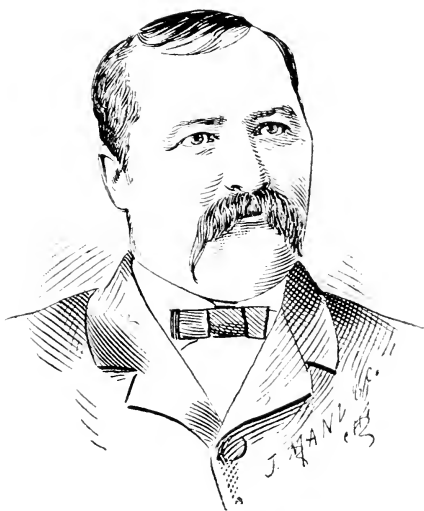
Carrie A. Smith, in Sibley, at the parsonage, by Elder Webb, January 1, 1873. The next was Edwin Smith to Miss Greaves, and several of the bachelors have married out of the county. They have all taken a better half except Joseph Farren and J. T. Sage, who still are waiting.

"The heaviest farmers are Abram Shapley, Peter Shaw, G. S. Downend, P. L. Piesley, J. Blair, J. Farren, W. H. Gates, A. Averill, A. B. Greaves, John Tarn, M. D. Hadsell, S. F. Smith, Ed. Smith and C. C. Collison.

"So far the farmers have had rather discouraging farming on account of the grasshoppers. They came here in June, 1873, and destroyed the greater part of the crops that year, so that the people had to apply for assistance in the way of relief. The State Legislature appropriated \$50,000 to the grasshopper sufferers in the way of seed grain. But in 1874 the 'hoppers hatched here and came in from Minnesota, and hurt the crop from about one-fourth to a third. In 1875 the crops were good except corn and oats, which were badly eaten by the pests. But the people began to feel considerably encouraged, and in 1876, the centennial year, they went in as if they were going to make up for losses, and put in every foot of ground that they had broken. And the grain was looking fine and promising until within a few days of harvesting, when the 'hoppers came again from the north in great numbers and waded into the grain, and destroyed almost the entire crop in this township. So most of the farmers are bankrupt, without seed or money.

"Many of the settlers were compelled to go away for the winter in order to make a living for their families and get something to seed their places with for the next year. Some are too poor to get away and have been compelled to prove up on their homesteads and mortgage their places to raise money to carry them till they can raise another crop. The people nearly all burn hay for fuel because they have not the wherewith to buy anything else to burn, but if all other necessities could be remedied as easily as the fuel we could manage to get along very well. As it is, most of the farmers will be compelled to let part of their farms lie still next year, for the want of means to get seed to seed their lands. Most of the farmers did considerable breaking this season, and now have more ground broken than they have the means to carry on. There were about fifteen hundred acres broken in this township this summer. The lands in this township are very rich and productive, and the face of the country is most beau-





DIEDRICH WASSMANN.









P. A. CAJACOB.







tiful, just rolling enough to drain well, and it is as well watered as any part of Osceola county. It has the Otter creek running through on the east, the Little Rock on the west and the Muddy creek on the north. These streams all have fine grass land along them, which produces the best of hay for stock. It is not only good farming land, but well adapted to raising stock and the dairying business. We have one cheese factory in the township, which is owned by David B. Wood, and is located in the center of the township. All that is lacking now is the means to get the stock to make it one of the most productive townships in the northwest. Some new settlers have settled in this township."



## CHAPTER XXIII.

### TOWNSHIPS.

To start on there were only three townships. The congressional township running east and west across the county, numbered 100, was called Horton Township; the same running east and west across the county, numbered 99, was called Holman Township, and the same numbered 98 called Goewey Township. These remained in that way until October 7, 1872, when the board divided Horton Township into three townships, making section 100, range 42, Fenton, section 100, range 41, Wilson, and section 100, range 40, and section 100, range 39, Horton. Afterwards, by a demand of the people in that township, Fenton was changed to Viola. Fairview was set off September 7, 1874. Holman Township remained as established until at the September 27, 1873, meeting the board made two townships out of the four, making the east, being section 99, range 39, and section 99, range 40, one township, and giving the name Ocheyedon. These townships, remaining the same as Holman, comprise two congressional townships, and Ocheyedon two, which for convenience sake are called East and West Ocheyedon. At the January 1, 1884, meeting, Gilman Township was set off by itself. June 7, 1875, the board passed a resolution that township 98, range 40, be set off and called Baker, except sections 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, and sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 28, 29 and 30, in township 98, range 39. Harrison was set off September 3, 1888, and that fall had its first election.

### EDUCATIONAL.

If there is any one thing that is distinctly American, it is our educational system, which offers to each rising generation the grandest facilities for scholarship that can be found in the world.

The American boy knows no barrier to distinction in the line of education save in himself. Iowa is not behind any other state in the Union in its legislative provisions concerning schools, and Osceola County, as a part of the great state, is ever active in the organization of its school districts and their effective management.





MARY L. MCCALLUM.









H. G. DOOLITTLE.







If any boy or girl lives in Osceola County during their school days, and grows to manhood or womanhood here without a good common school education, the fault must be charged to the parent or the child and not to lack of opportunity.

Immediately upon the formation of the civil townships, as made by the Woodbury County Board, the same townships by operation of law became school districts, and the school townships now are the same in size and name as the civil townships.

F. W. Hahn is the present County Superintendent of Schools, and his official management in that department is efficient and highly satisfactory.

There are at present in the county eighty-one school houses, as follows :

Fairview .....	3
Horton .....	6
Wilson .....	6
Viola .....	6
Ocheyedan .....	12
Harrison .....	7
Baker .....	7
Goewey .....	7
Gilman .....	8
Holman .....	15
Sibley, town .....	2
Ocheyedan, town .....	1
Ashton, town .....	1

The value of Osceola County school houses is estimated at \$44,000 ; the value of school house apparatus at \$2,000.

The present school officers are as follows :

#### FAIRVIEW.

President—J. C. Ward.  
 Secretary—M. B. Smith.  
 Treasurer—Wm. Mowthorpe.  
 Directors—Geo. Hamilton, B. F. Webster.

#### HORTON.

President—Dick Wassmann.  
 Secretary—John Robertson.  
 Treasurer—N. W. Emery.  
 Directors—I. B. Titus, August Bremer.



## WILSON.

President—W. A. Cloud.  
Secretary—A. B. Evarts.  
Treasurer—Will Thomas.  
Directors—W. C. Connor, Mons. Soren, C. E. Yates, F.  
A. Klampe, Joseph Zweck.

## VIOLA.

President—Joseph Raine.  
Secretary—George Downend.  
Treasurer—J. P. Wallran.  
Directors—S. Newman, Pat Piesley.

## HOLMAN.

President—W. L. Taylor.  
Secretary—M. Harvey.  
Treasurer—P. A. Cajacob.  
Directors—T. Ling, John Gallagher, Thomas Reycraft,  
D. W. Whitney, John Karpen, James Hunter, O. C. Staplin,  
John Schroeder, Will Morse, J. B. Jenny, John Wagner, John  
Melcher.

## OCHEYEDAN.

President—W. E. Ely.  
Secretary—E. N. Moore.  
Treasurer—L. B. Boyd.  
Directors—G. W. Thomas, Joseph Smith.

## HARRISON.

President—J. W. Wardrip.  
Secretary—T. Hemmig.  
Treasurer—F. H. Newkirk.  
Directors—George Krukenberg, Daniel Tzards.

## BAKER.

President—Hans Graves.  
Secretary—C. W. Bryan.  
Treasurer—W. H. Lean.  
Directors—J. L. McAnich, Fred. Kuester.

## GOEWY.

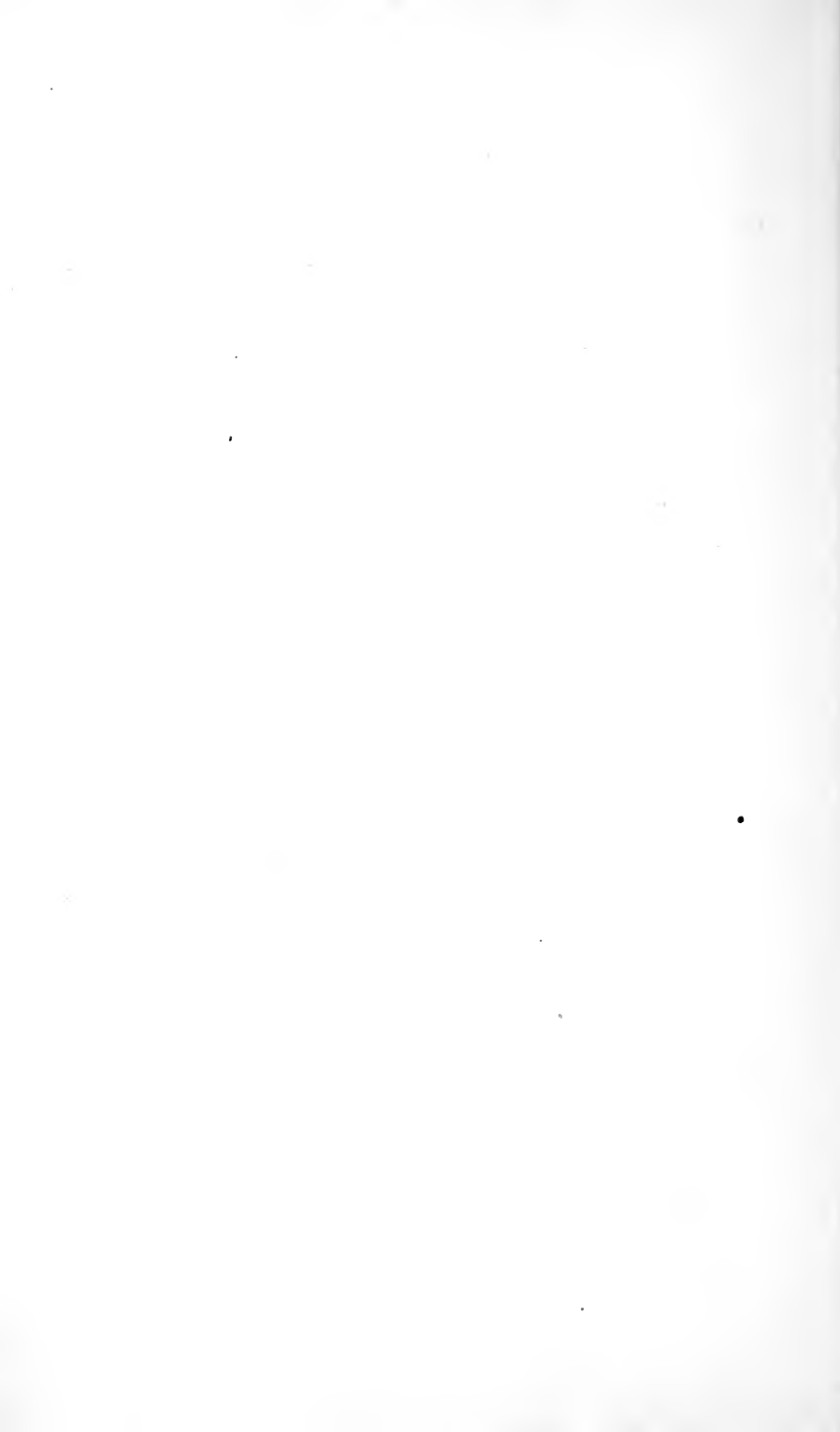
President—H. C. Allen.  
Secretary—Henry Huffman.  
Treasurer—Alex. Gilkinson.  
Directors—O. B. Harding, A. Brunson, Charles Bangert,  
Jacob Brandt, George Spaulding, Eugene Girton.





M. A. TATUM.









A. E. BEAUMONT.







## GILMAN.

President—B. T. Pettingell.

Secretary—J. C. Wilmarth.

Treasurer—W. C. Craig.

Directors—A. Schent, R. Lensen, H. H. Nolte, R. J. Stemm, E. Beckwith, Nels Porter.

## INDEPENDENT DISTRICT OF SIBLEY.

President—H. Neill.

Secretary—W. P. Webster.

Treasurer—Levi Shell.

Directors—A. Romey, M. J. Campbell, J. B. Lent, Geo. Learned, W. H. Chambers.

## INDEPENDENT DISTRICT OF ASHTON.

President—I. B. Lucas.

Secretary—J. W. Reagan.

Treasurer—W. L. Benjamin.

Directors—N. Boor, H. S. Grant.

The school sections, so-called, are numbered sixteen in each township, which were donated by the general government, to the State, for the benefit of the schools. These sections are sold, and the proceeds constitute a fund which remains and not disposed of, but it is loaned out upon good real estate security, and the income from it by way of interest, is distributed over the State to each township according to its number of scholars. Osceola County has now of this fund, and as proceeds from the sale of land in this county, about \$100,000. The first sale made of school lands in Osceola, was in July, 1881, and the first quarter sold was bought by Close Bros. in Gilman Township. These school lands have all been disposed of except one quarter, and this will go to sale soon.

There are in Osceola County at the present time, about twenty-one hundred persons of school age, and the best of teachers are secured, so that our schools are of a high order and the means of much advancement. Several school buildings have been erected this present season. Prof. Trainer, mentioned elsewhere, did much for Osceola County in the line of education. He constantly contributed to the public press articles intended to stimulate the young in the line of their studies. The following is one of his contributions:



## "A PLEA FOR THE CHILDREN.

"Children hunger perpetually for new ideas. They will learn with pleasure from the lips of others what they deem drudgery to study in books; and even if they have the misfortune to be deprived of many educational advantages, they grow up intelligent people.

"We sometimes see people who are the life of every company which they enter, dull, silent and uninteresting among children; such cannot teach. The teacher must be the life of the school. How can we expect life and energy to come from dry, cold, silent books! The use of books is a detriment rather than an aid to the younger pupils. When the pupil enters school at the age of five years he already has learned more than any teacher on earth can teach him in a long life time. Teachers, did you ever think that the child at that age has learned two of the most difficult things mortals have to learn—walking and talking? How many works in philosophy has it been necessary for him to consult? What university has he graduated from to be able to walk perfectly? What authors on language has he studied, or how many lectures on philosophy has he heard to be able to make known his thoughts by talking. We know that these and a thousand other attainments have been reached by doing for himself. Yet without a knowledge of these things, from the first hour the child enters school many teachers attempt to change the whole course of nature by forcing upon him that which is as foreign to his nature as day is from night. What we need is the teacher who will give the children a chance to observe, experiment and to think for themselves, and let us remember that language is the instrument of thought, and that without language there can be no thought."





JAMES PORTER.









J. C. HEIM.







## CHAPTER XXIV.

Early in the seventies there was much discussion as to the depreciation of county warrants, which were down then to fifty cents on the dollar. Some writer in the local press, in January, 1874, has the following :

“Northwestern Iowa needs assistance, and such assistance can only be granted by the State Legislature. The munificence of individuals can relieve the wants of individuals, but it takes legislation to relieve the embarrassments of counties.

“In no part of the state is there more fertile soil, more healthful climate, larger yearly improvements, or more rapid increase in population, than in Northwestern Iowa. In a few years the counties will be as independent as any in the state. But circumstances, over which the county had no control, for the very reason that they were, themselves, controlled by designing men, brought the credit of many of them into great disrepute, owing to the issuing of warrants for no valid consideration, so that after affairs began to be economically managed the warrants were worth, in the market, but half their face.

“It may be safely said that the New Code of Iowa went into operation finding the administration of our northwestern counties in as good hands as other portions of the state, but just as the New Code took force the bonding law expired by statute limitation, thereby taking away that which had caused warrants to be, at least in some degree, in demand, as offering an investment which yielded a fair rate of interest.

“By economical management it was hoped that warrants would not depreciate very much, but when the Supreme Court's decision was announced there was no longer a market, something, of course, must be done. The counties cannot remedy the matter ; it rests with the Legislature.

“Our assessment is \$612,000. At four mills the revenue amounts to \$2,448 ; this, with the present amount of property, is all that can be raised for county purposes.

“Now, see what county expenses are to be paid out of this sum : Section 3844 of the Code provides that ‘The Board of Supervisors shall furnish the Clerk of District and



Circuit Courts, Sheriff, Recorder, Treasurer, Auditor and County Superintendent with offices at the county-seat, together with fuel, lights, blanks, books and stationery necessary and proper to enable them to discharge the duties of their respective offices.'

"The compensation of the officers is fixed by the board, and paid out of the county fund, except such as paid in the shape of fees. The sum total of fees received in the different offices is no more than sufficient to afford one officer a reasonable and fair compensation, leaving four or five officers to be paid out of the county fund. The sum total of fees and expenses, fixed by law, and that cannot be reduced, amounted, for the last year, to \$4,625.94; add to this amount compensation for officers and the amount necessary to pay the interest on bonds drawing ten per cent., payable semi-annually, and you have, at the least calculation, a sum three or four times the amount of the revenue. At present it would take just about a twenty mill tax to keep up all the drafts on the county fund.

"In view of the above condition of affairs, we appeal to the Legislature to provide for a revenue. We submit that it is an outrage on the Board of Supervisors, to the people of the county, to the name of legislator or legislation, that a body of men, chosen to legislate for the interests of the whole state, should compel Boards of Supervisors to provide for the payment of bills of expenses and provide for only one-fourth the necessary revenue.

"We must have the bonding law revived, a higher levy, and direct taxes voted by the people. We need one, or more, or *all* these means of relief. There is no reason why, if sufficient revenue is provided, the paper of a county cannot be just as good as the paper money of the government."

#### PRICES IN 1873.

In 1873, prices in Sibley ranged about as follows: Sixteen and one-half pounds of dried apples for \$1.00; prunes 7½ pounds for \$1.00; blackberries, 7½ pounds for \$1.00; peaches, 10 pounds for \$1.00; Standard "A" sugar, 7½ pounds for \$1.00; brown sugar, 10 pounds for \$1.00; bacon, 12 cents per pound; shoulders, 7 cents per pound; hams, 16 cents per pound; oil, 35 cents per pound.

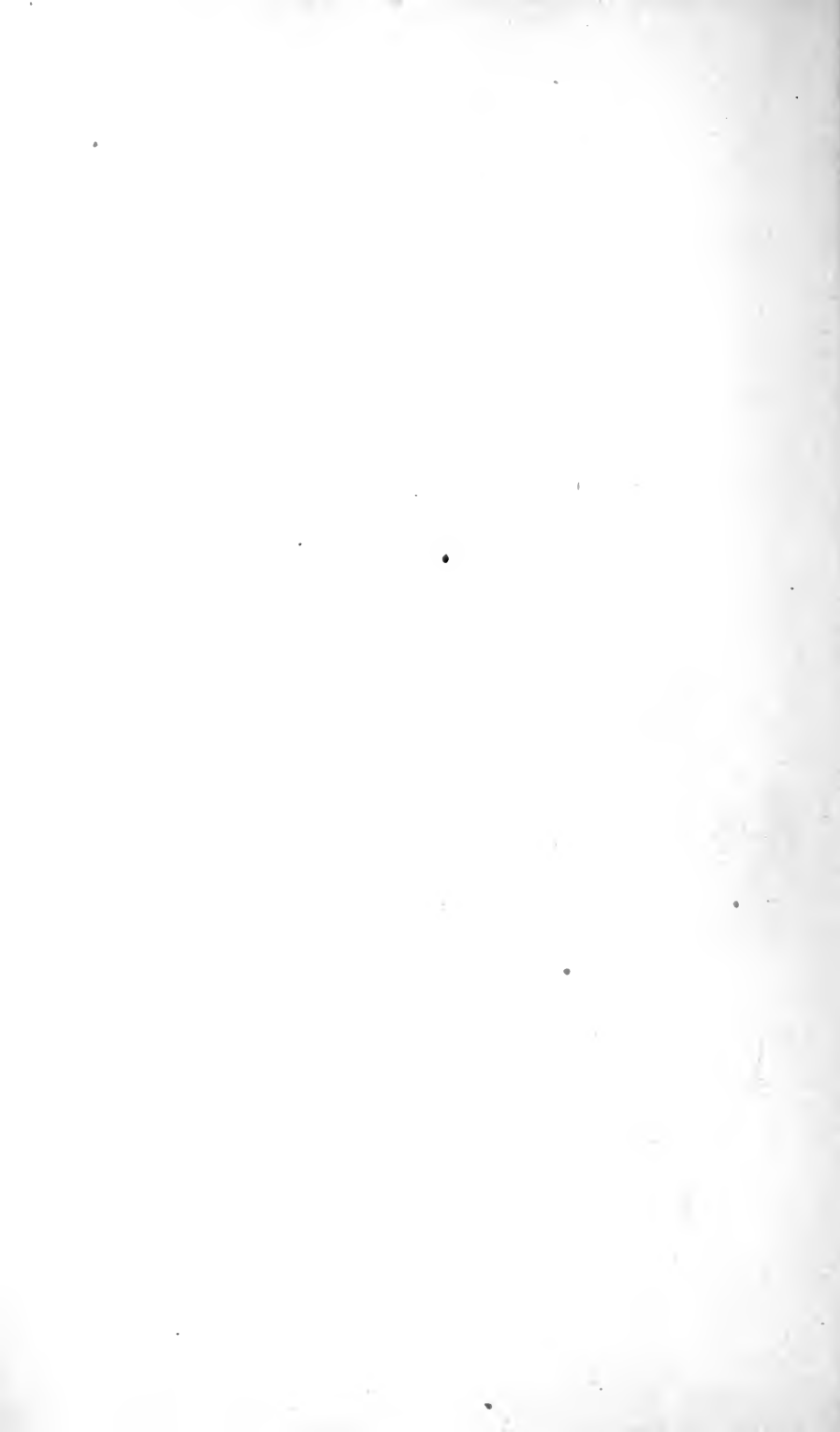
The above was from a local dealer advertising his goods. The market report in a June, 1873, number of the *Gazette*, was as follows:





A. W. HARRIS.









RESIDENCE OF A. W. HARRIS, SIBLEY.







Wheat, No. 1, $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ bush.....	75@86
Corn, $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ bush.....	40
Oats, $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ bush.....	25
Barley, $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ bush.....	35@40
Flour, $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ hundred lbs.....	3.25
Corn meal, $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ hundred lbs.....	1.90
Beans, $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ bush.....	1.50
Pork, $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ lb.....	12
Hams, $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ lb.....	18
Potatoes.....	30
Shoulders, $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ lb.....	12
Lard, $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ lb.....	17
Butter, $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ lb.....	30
Cheese, $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ lb.....	20
Eggs, $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ doz.....	15
Dried apples, $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ lb.....	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Dried peaches, $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ lb.....	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tea, $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ lb.....	72@1.80
Coffee, $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ lb.....	29@34
Sugars, $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ lb.....	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ @17
Syrups, $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ gal.....	1.00
Molasses, $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ gal.....	80
Kerosene, $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ gal.....	40
Lumber, $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ M.....	18.00@37.00
Nails, $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ lb.....	7@10
Shingles, $\text{\textcircled{P}}$ M.....	3.00@5.00

Hard coal was then selling at \$25 per ton, and soft coal correspondingly.

Whatever the farmer raises in Osceola County he finds a good market for in either of the towns, and a prominent business house in Sibley, Ocheyedan and Harris, inadvertently omitted from the Sibley write-up, is

#### A. W. HARRIS & CO.

This firm has a large grain and coal business in Sibley, also in the towns of Harris and Ocheyedan.

The town of Harris was named after the head of this firm, who laid out the townsite, and still owns it except what lots have been sold. They put up the first building on the Harris townsite, and at present are the only grain buyers there. This firm located in Sibley in 1887, and are very prominent in their line of business in Osceola County.



## CONCLUDING CHAPTER.

The condition of Osceola County in this year of our Lord, 1892, is one of general prosperity. Pauperism does not exist, and opportunities for labor, for securing homes, and for establishing business are on every hand. There has been an abundant harvest, and each year is an advancement in farming interests and in all classes of business.

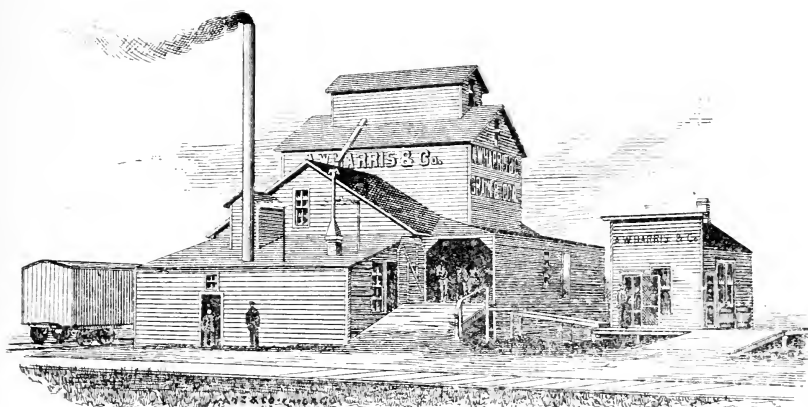
The last assessed valuation of the county was \$1,726,582. The indebtedness of the county has been, at it highest, about \$90,000. Its present indebtedness is \$60,500. The amount of school money now loaned out, and under contract for loan by the county on farm land, is \$96,500.75. The amount paid out for school purposes in 1891 was \$29,040. This came from taxation except \$611, which was derived from the permanent school fund interest. The running expenses of the county in 1891 required \$18,568. The income to the county from taxation for 1891 was \$61,375.

The county has a substantial court house and every school district has the required buildings for school purposes.

The people are thrifty, intelligent and law-abiding, and as a class are comparable with those of any county in the state.

The County has changed in its inhabitants since the first settlement, some coming and going, some remaining yet, and others with the fate that must follow all of us, are lying in the cemetery. Western people are given to changing their business locations more than are the people of the East; here, if anywhere, is the spirit of unrest, implanted seemingly in our very nature on the first move, and with many it becomes a fixed feeling and irresistible. Osceola County has had its share of this tidal change, this flowing in and out of population, and of the original settlers, those who came here in 1871, '72 and '73, there are not a great many left.





A. W. HARRIS & CO. ELEVATOR, SIBLEY.









REV. L. R. FITCH.







We close this book with a poem that has fallen under our observation without knowing to whom credit is due.

### COMING TO OSCEOLA COUNTY.

They are coming from the deserts of the dim and dusky East,  
Where to raise a stunted turnip is the prospect of a feast;  
Where the farms are made of gravel and they plow with dynamite,  
Where the festive chattel mortgage sings its dirges day and night;  
They are coming in their wagons, they are coming on the train,  
They are coming from the regions where they struggled long in vain;  
They are coming from the cabin, they are coming from the hall,  
They are coming to Osceola County where there's plenty for them all.

They are coming from the South-land, they are coming from the North  
From the valleys and the mountains they in droves are coming forth;  
They are coming with their husbands, they are coming with their wives,  
They are coming with their hammers, with their axes and their knives;  
With their harrows, with their rakes, with their seeders and their guns,  
They are coming with their fathers and their mothers and their sons;  
They are coming stout and slender, they are coming short and tall,  
They are coming to Osceola County, where there's plenty for them all.

Where the savage used to wander searching for a crop of hair,  
The farmer takes his porker to the nearest county fair;  
And the corn is daily growing where the greasy wigwams stood,  
Where he burned the wailing captive, now the poultry scratch for food;  
And the people who are coming to this pleasantest of climes,  
Show a happy knack of keeping with the progress of the times;  
They will find a country beaming from the spring-time to the fall,  
If they land here in Osceola County, where there's plenty for them all.









FLORENCE L. McCALLUM.









C. M. MANVILLE.









C. A. CHARLES.









MRS. D. D. MCCALLUM.









J. C. TRAINOR.









J. C. BRICKER.



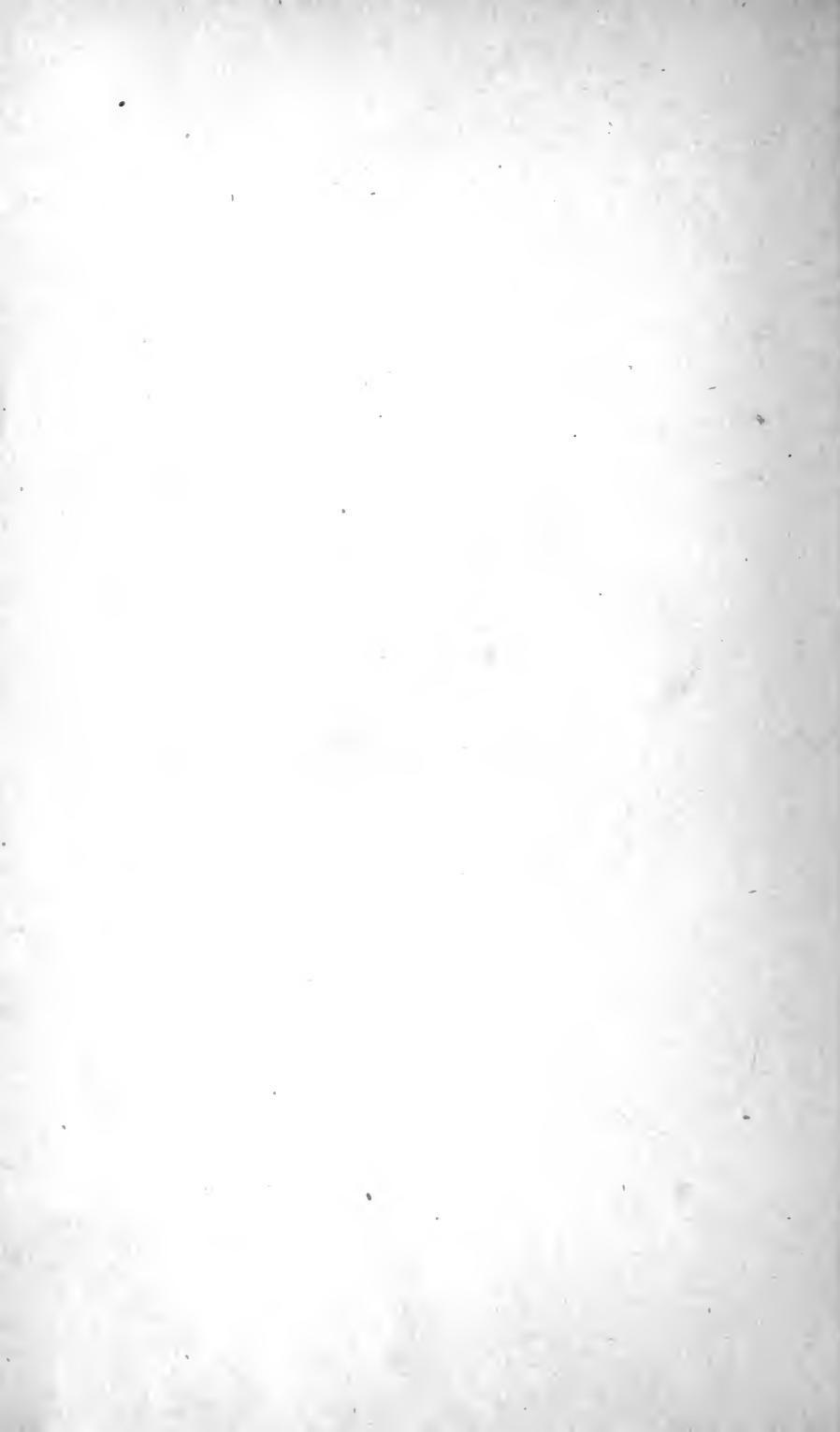






A. ROMEY.



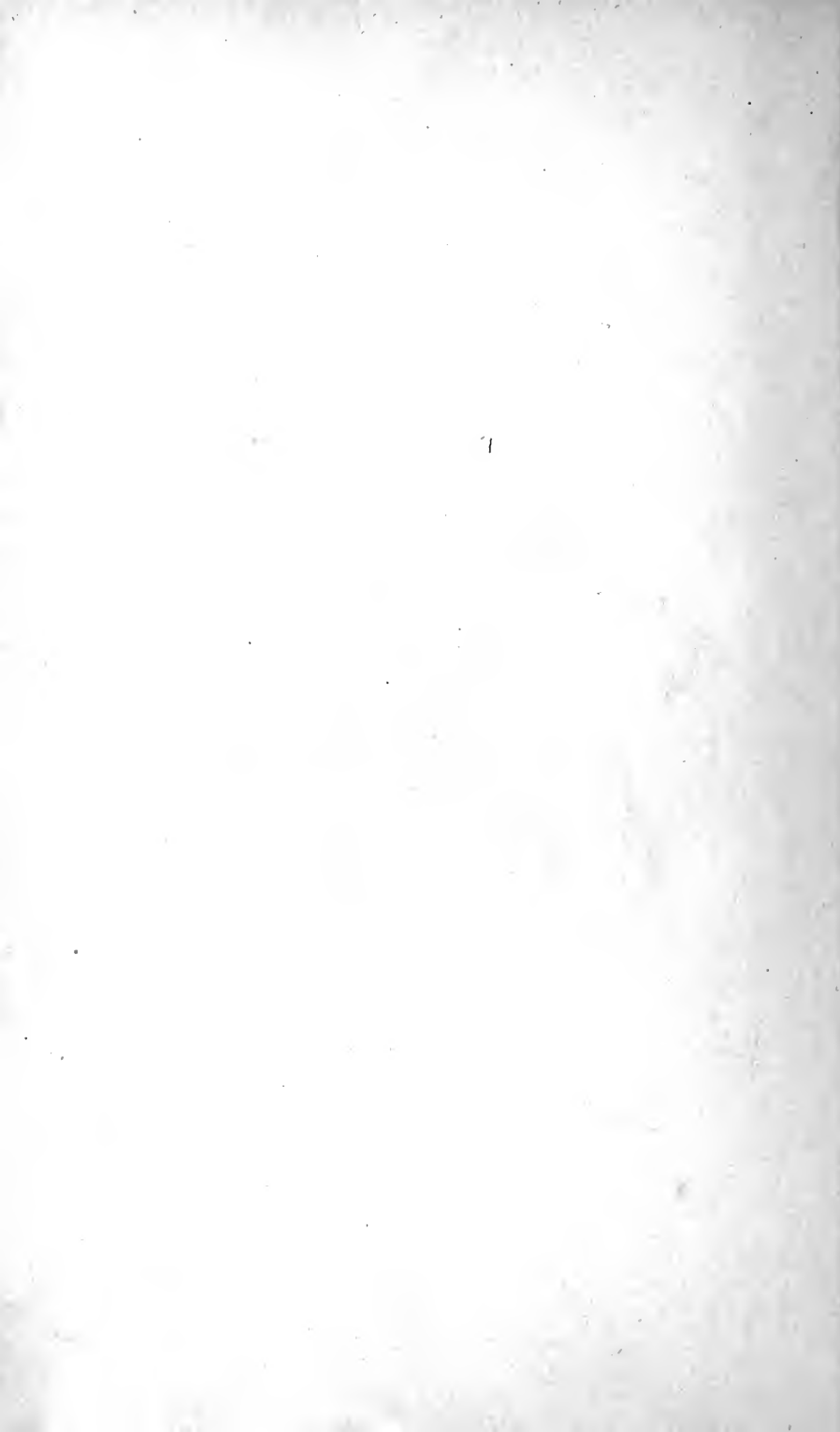






C. B. KNOX.







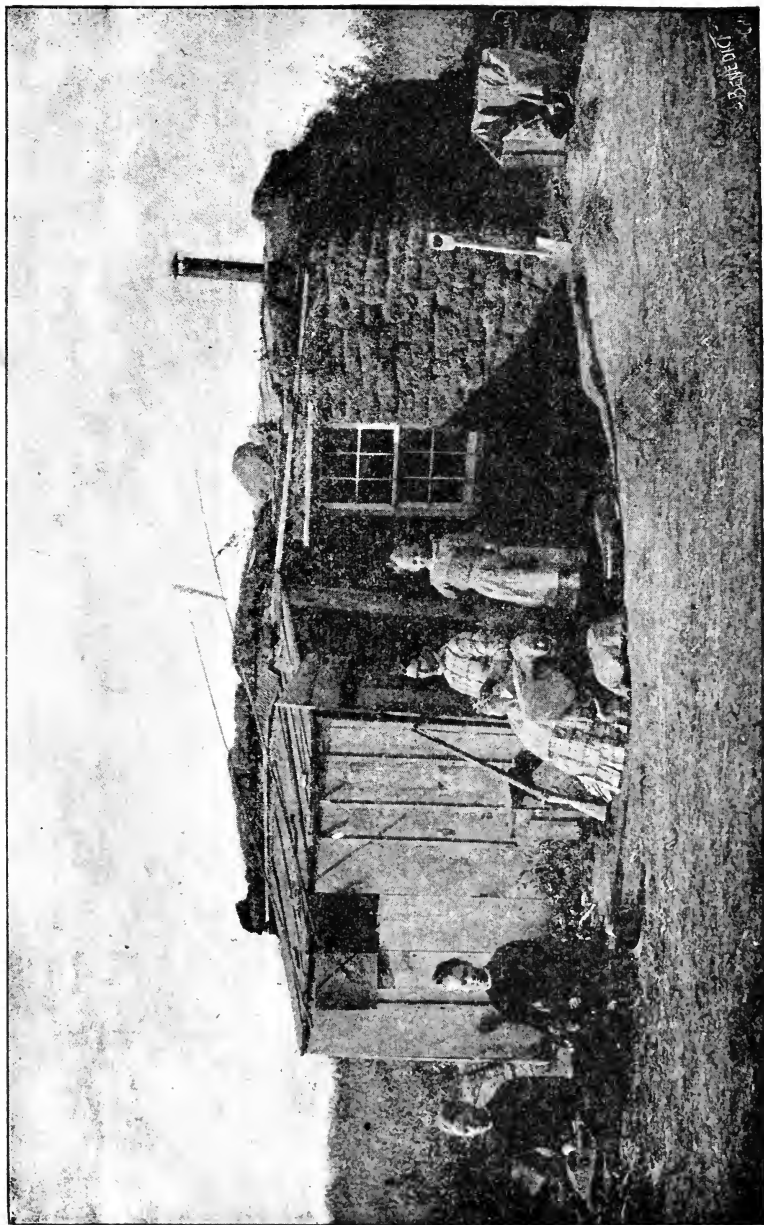


C. L. DAVIDSON.









AN OSCEOLA COUNTY SOD HOUSE, 1872.



W  
W















